

24 JUN 1939

A.

PONTARDAWE
RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

MEDICAL OFFICER'S
REPORT

FOR THE YEAR

1938.

SWANSEA:

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1939.

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FOR THE
YEAR 1938.



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Pontardawe Rural District Council.

MEDICAL OFFICER'S REPORT FOR THE YEAR 1938.

*To the Chairman and Members of the
Pontardawe Rural District Council.*

Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit my Annual Report on the Health and Sanitary Conditions of the Pontardawe Rural District for the year 1938, drawn up in accordance with Circular 1728 (Wales) dated the 25th October, 1938.

The public health service in obedience to the public demand, as expressed by Parliament, is rapidly adding to its duties in the domain of housing, maternity and child welfare, the organization of hospitals and in multifarious other ways.

The latest addition is the arrangement for protection against air raids. This is not, strictly speaking, a public health function, but it is nevertheless a duty which will be of immense service to the community should an emergency occur. It is not a pleasant duty because it must involve perpetual thought of war by those whose primary duty is to work for the saving of life and the prevention of disease. However, we have the consolation that these measures will mitigate hardship and distress, relieve pain and suffering, also protect our population from unnecessary dangers. The function of the Medical Officer of Health will be to organize an extended and rapidly available emergency hospital system and to staff and supervise first aid posts and first aid parties. Air raid precautions must now be regarded as a permanent part of a local authority's public services, and we are bound to agree with this statement much as we may dislike the thought of it.

The public health service has had its failures, but its successes have been remarkable. In 1840 the death rate was 20 per 1,000 of the population, and in 1875 when the Public Health Act was passed it remained at the same high figure. By the year 1900 it had fallen to 17.6, and to-day it is 12.1.

The infantile mortality rate has fallen from 155 per 1,000 live births in the decade 1891-1900 to 59 per 1,000 in 1936 for England and Wales, Pontardawe now being 55 per 1,000 live births. The reduction in the crude death rate has been due partly to the phenomenal drop in the infantile mortality rate,

but it is largely a real fall in the death rate at almost all ages, and the increase in longevity which goes with it is by no means the least important of the social phenomena of our time.

Against a fall in the death rate there has occurred within comparatively recent years, a greater proportionate reduction in the birth rate, with the effect that the natural increase of population is now very small. This phenomenon of a declining birth rate, coinciding with a rapidly increasing standard of comfort and housing, is not a new one in the history of the world.

Questions of population belong largely to the future and urgent problems in the domain of public health and the social services await solution at the present time. There is a sincere attempt by all in authority to remedy as far as may be possible the unfortunate effects of environment, heredity or circumstances upon many of our fellow citizens. All aspects of life are being touched—housing, unemployment, the care of the mother and the young child, mental welfare, to mention but a few of them.

That continued unemployment affects adversely moral and physical standards can be accepted without argument ; but an even worse feature of our social life is found in the case of adolescents and young men who, apart from a few short-period jobs, have never known since leaving school the moral discipline of continuous work, or the feeling of satisfaction which comes of difficulties and obstacles successfully surmounted through the exercise of the physical or mental faculties.

There has been an increased prevalence of infectious diseases this year, many epidemics existing concurrently. During the first half year we had an epidemic of Scarlet Fever, and the latter half was notable for the Diphtheria outbreak which occurred mostly in the Gwaun-Cae-Gurwen area. Unfortunately, we have had four cases of Infantile Paralysis, one of which proved fatal.

I am pleased to report that Diphtheria Immunization has been carried out in the area, and the response is far better than I expected, over 70% of the children between the ages of 1 and 14 years being immunized. This will, I hope, eradicate the dread disease Diphtheria from our district. This will mean not only a saving in life, but also a saving in money.

The death rate from Tuberculosis in 1900 was 1.44 compared with .84 in 1938. But against this is the great increase in the Cancer deaths.

The Tuberculosis Register has been completely revised, and I am very indebted to Dr. T. W. Davies and Dr. Prosser Evans, of the King Edward VII National Memorial Hospital, for their assistance.

I am also grateful to your Chairman and each Member of the Council for the courtesy and good feeling shown to me ; also for the valuable suggestions which have been given to me by various Members.

I also have the pleasant duty of thanking the staff of the Public Health and other Departments for their assistance and co-operation in the work of the Department during the year.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

J. GWYNNE MORGAN.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA.

Chairman of the Public Health Committee—Coun. D. J. Owen.

Public Health Officers.

Whole Time Officers :

Medical Officer of Health..... J. Gwynne Morgan, M.B., B.S.
(Lond.), M.R.C.S. (Eng.),
L.R.C.P. (Lond.), D.P.H. (Lond.),
C.A.G.S. (Spec.).

Sanitary Inspector A. E. Edmunds, F.S.I.A., Sanitary
Inspector, Food and Meat
Inspector.

Health Visitor Miss M. T. Morgan.

Clerk John Rogers.

Part Time Officers :

Consultant for Difficult Obstetric Cases Dr. J. Lloyd Davies, M.D.,
F.R.C.S., D.P.H. (Lond.).

Isolation Hospital.

Medical Officer J. Owen Evans, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.

Matron Miss E. Thomas.

Clerk W. L. Morgan.

Ambulance Driver David Johns.

Health Visitors.

Clydach—Nurse I. Jones and Nurse O. Jones.

Pontardawe—Nurse Price and Nurse Davies.

(These Nurses are also the Queen's District Nurses.)

Midwives.

There are no Midwives employed by your Council. They come under the County Midwives Scheme.

SECTION A.—STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area	35,708 <i>Acres.</i>
Registrar-General's estimate of resident population, mid-1938	33,940
Number of inhabited houses (end of 1938) according to Rate Books	8,688
Rateable Value	£125,252
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	£448

Social conditions, including the chief industries carried on in the area, and the extent of unemployment.

The bulk of the population is grouped in villages mostly in the Tawe Valley. These villages are advancing to meet each other and apparently will soon coalesce.

Clydach, comprises parts of the Parishes of Mawr and Rhyndwyclydach. Progressing up the valley from Swansea the first township in the area is Clydach, which is favourably situated on undulating ground and protected from prevailing winds and rain, but not so as to prevent the free circulation of air.

Housing in this district is good and the streets are well arranged. The new housing sites on the Gellionen Road are well situated and have the maximum amount of sunlight.

The main industries are nickel refining, tinplating and coal mining.

Pontardawe comprises parts of the Blacnegel and Gellionen Wards and the Parishes of Cilybebyll and Ynisymond.

The valley here is wide and open, and most of the houses are above the line of the river mists, but the lower part of the village is on river level and is thus exposed to flooding when the river is full: this is very noticeable in Herbert Street.

The houses are on the whole good and the new site at Alltacham is an ideal one ; a good addition will be the new park and playing fields at Alltacham.

The main industries are tinplate and steel smelting, collieries and agriculture.

Ystalyfera, consisting of the Alltygrug and Godre'rgraig Wards.

Ystalyfera is a long straggling village situate half way up the steep western side of the valley ; is much exposed to the prevailing winds and driving rain. The valley here is very narrow and the bounding hills on either side steep and reach to 900 feet above the level of the river bed.

Owing to the morning and evening shadows cast by these hills the inhabitants are deprived of hours of sunlight. This, I think, accounts partly for the high incidence of Tuberculosis in this area.

Housing in this village has been the subject of comment in several previous reports.

In 1906, October 25th, a committee consisting of County Councillors Sir J. T. D. Llewellyn, Bart., T. H. Morris and D. J. Thomas, held an inquiry at Ystalyfera when the following report was read :—

“ Ystalyfera (or the Cyfyng, as it was then called) was within living memory a small village consisting of a few scattered cottages inhabited by coal miners. With the advent of the old Ystalyfera Iron Company, and the building in 1839 of the blast furnaces and, in quick succession, the forge and tinplate works, the population rapidly increased. The houses were built mainly alongside the main road on the side of a steep hill, the ground being so steep that the houses on the lower side had basement rooms which, unfortunately, are frequently used as separate dwellings. Those on the upper side are often built against the ground and are wanting of proper light and through ventilation. From 1840 to 1855 several hundred cottages were built, mostly without any supervision or regard for sanitation ; in fact, sanitation was little known then in rural districts, or if known, not respected.”

The general death rate of the locality is often in excess of the average for the County.

In 1908 the Garden City and Town Planning Committee gave the following accurate description of Ystalyfera :—

“ In Ystalyfera practically all the old houses have underground dwellings with two entrances at different levels. Walking along the main road one sees apparently ordinary two

storey houses, not beautiful, but substantial looking and quite suitable for the purpose they are intended for ; but an approach from the main road leading under these houses shows that at the back they are three or four storeys high, with another front entrance from the garden. The backs of these rooms are, of course, against the earth, and where there are two rooms on the same floor there is almost entire lack of light and ventilation. The lower floor rooms were 6 ft. 6 ins. in height, while the upper rooms were a good deal lower than 5 feet. In some instances the approaches and the staircases were in such a bad state of repair that it would seem positively dangerous for them to be in general use."

Since this report was written all the basement dwellings have been condemned and all the inhabitants rehoused, but there are several houses which are sadly in need of repair and some require demolishing. I now refer to houses built into the steep sides of the mountain. The backs of these houses face a steep retaining wall which prevents any through ventilation and also renders the house very damp.

Gwaun-Cae-Gurwen, comprising Caegurwen and Cwmllynfell.

The industries are mostly collieries. It is situated on clay and peaty soil.

The houses on the whole are good. The population increased from 4,043 in 1900 to 8,798 in 1927. Since then there has been a gradual decrease, the present population being 8,202.

Brynamman has become derelict and, as so aptly put by one of your local Councillors—"To walk through this village is now heart-breaking to anyone who knew it in its former prosperous days."

The amenities for any works or trading companies are great. It is situated in a coalfield ; well served by the railways, both the L.M. & S. and G.W.R. being in the neighbourhood ; and, owing to the large number of unemployed, there are plenty of workmen available in the district.

CHIEF COLLIERIES IN THE AREA.

Gwaun-Cae-Gurwen : East Pit, Maerdy Pit, Steer Pit, Cwmgorse, Tregloin (not working), Screen of Raven Colliery, Brynamman.

Cwmllynfell : Cwmllynfell Colliery.

Ystalyfera : Pwllbach, Tirbach, Ystalyfera, Tareni, Tygwyn.

Pontardawe : Nil.

Clydach : Graigola, Hendy Merthyr, Garth, Bwlfa Ddu, Glyncoch.

Cwmtwrch : Pentwyn.

Trebanos : Darren.

Total	.....	.....	.....	20
Not working	.....	.....	.....	1

Prevention of dust in most of these collieries is very poorly carried out, and during work quite a haze is caused. Fine coal dust raised during tipping, screening, etc., is not only a nuisance but imposes uncomfortable working conditions upon the men, and is not conducive to high efficiency.

Progressive colliery companies are fully alive to the desirability, if not actual necessity, of dust collecting in the tippler and screening-plant buildings.

I inspected a dust collecting plant installed at one of the local collieries, incorporating a collector manufactured by Messrs. Davidson & Co., Ltd., Belfast, which, in my opinion, was giving excellent results. The collector is one of the Patent Cyclonic type extracting anthracite coal dust from the dust-laden air in the screening house.

This equipment is collecting dust actually in suspension, the fineness of which is remarkable. 75% of the dust collected will pass through a .355 mesh, while only 8% is retained in a 90 mesh. Unless dust of this nature is seen under a powerful microscope it is difficult to visualise the size of the particles. In the above mentioned colliery about $3\frac{1}{2}$ tons of dust are collected per day.

NUMBER EMPLOYED IN VARIOUS WORKS.

Ystalyfera.

Glantwrch Slag Works	6
Tygwyn Colliery	..... 6
Cwm Colliery	..... 7
Gurnos Tinplate Works	50
Corn Mill	..... 5
Clecs Quarry	..... 7
Tudor's Garage	..... 10
Labour Voice Printing Works	..... 15
L.M. & S. Railway	..... 30
Tirbach Colliery	..... 657

Godre'rgraig.

Tareni Colliery	.....	550
Pentwyn Colliery	.....	28
New Forest Colliery	.....	35

Number Employed in Various Works—continued.**Ystalyfera—(continued).**

Ystalyfera Colliery	.....	221
Yniscu Colliery	.....	22
Pwllbach Screens	.....	42
Ystalyfera Tinplate Works	.....	241

Clydach.

Players' Foundry	.....	37
Players' Tinplate Works	.....	240
Canister Works	.....	104
Glanrafon Tinplate Works	.....	123
Llwyndu Brick Works	.....	23
Llwyndu Colliery	.....	6
Mond Nickel Works	.....	1200

Craigcfnparc.

Graigola Colliery	.....	622
Glyncoch Colliery	.....	29
Tyllwydyn Colliery	.....	28
Bwllfa Colliery	.....	10
Graigfelyn Colliery	.....	18
Hendy Colliery	220

Gwaun-Cae-Gurwen.

Amalgamated Anthracite Collieries	1790
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Cwmgorse.

Cwmgorse Colliery	395
Cwmgorse Brick Works	31

Cwmlllynfell.

Cwmlllynfell Colliery	396
Pwllbach Colliery	.....	31

Brynamman.

Cwmnant Howell Colliery	.....	15
Welsh Refractories	.....	3

Pontardawe.

Gilbertson's Steel Works	.....	858
L.M. & S. Railway	.....	32
South Wales Garage	.....	42
Lewis Bros. Mineral Works	.....	16
Pontardawe Foundry	.....	9
Pontardawe Alloy Works	.....	465
Pontardawe Chemical Works	.....	3
Glanrhyd Tinplate Works	.....	400
Pontardawe R.D. Council	.....	173
Tawe Valley Gas Co.	.....	18
Economic Hot Water Supply	.....	15

Ynismeudw.

Ynismeudw Tinplate Works	225
Pontardawe Quarries	18

Trebanos.

Darren Colliery	120
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Rhydyfro.

Rhydyfro Colliery	5
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Rhos.

Cwmnantllwyd Colliery	15
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ANNUAL REPORT UNDER THE FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS ACT, 1938.

(1) *Inspections.*

Table 1.

Premises.	Number of :		
	Inspections.	Written Notices.	Occupiers Prosecuted.
Factories with mechanical power	72	6	—
Factories without mechanical power	41	—	—
Other Premises under the Act (including works of building and engineering construction but not including outworkers premises)	—	—	—
	113	6	—

(2) *Defects Found.*

Particulars.	Number of Defects :			Number of defects in respect of which Prosecutions were instituted.
	Found.	Remedied.	Referred to H.M. Inspector.	
Want of Cleanliness	4	4	—	—
Overcrowding	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable Temperature	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences : Insufficient	3	2	—	—
Unsuitable or defective				
Not separate for sexes }				
Other offences	—	—	—	—
Mess-rooms inadequate	2	1	—	—
	9	7	—	—

Table 2.

Statement giving, for the area covered by the Clydach, Pontardawe, Ystalyfera and Garnant Local Offices of the Ministry of Labour, an Industrial Analysis of Insured Persons aged 16-64 registered as Unemployed on the 4th April and 17th October, 1938.

INDUSTRY	CLYDACH		PONTARDAWE		YSTALYFERA		GWAUNCAE-GURWEN		TOTAL	
	April	Oct.	April	Oct.	April	Oct.	April	Oct.	April	Oct.
Building	9	10	43	26	33	27	63	44	148	107
Iron and Steel	25	29	252	252	1	—	—	3	278	284
Tin Plate	235	236	852	639	663	397	79	79	1829	1351
Coal	192	67	65	30	822	592	554	313	1633	1002
Distributive Trades	46	56	38	38	44	41	43	52	171	187
Local Government	2	—	86	105	11	8	4	4	103	117
Public Works	89	78	43	34	149	181	381	328	662	621
Other Industries	97	80	58	82	94	175	90	164	339	501
Totals	695	556	1437	1206	1817	1421	1214	987	5163	4170

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR.

Total. M. F.

Live Births	{	Legitimate	425	204	221	} Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population — 12.8
		Illegitimate	11	8	3	

Stillbirths	24	15	9	Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births — 52
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Deaths	412		Death Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population — 12.11
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Deaths from puerperal causes (Headings 29 and 30 of the Registrar-General's Short List) :—

	<i>Deaths.</i>	<i>Rate per 1,000 total live and still births.</i>
No. 29 Puerperal Sepsis	1	2.28
No. 30 Other Puerperal Causes	3	6.70
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total	4	8.98
	<hr/>	<hr/>

Death Rate of Infants under one Year of Age :—

All infants per 1,000 live births	55
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	54
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	100
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	52
“ „ Measles (all ages)	—
“ „ Whooping Cough (all ages)	1
“ „ Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	—

Comparability Factor — 1.22.

Table 3.

VITAL STATISTICS DURING THE CALENDAR YEAR 1938, CLASSIFIED BY AGES,
CAUSES AND LOCALITIES.

Code No.	Causes of Death.	Sex.	Total.	2—	5—	15—	25—	45—	65—	Over 65	Clydach.	Pontardawe.	Ystalyfera.	Cae-gurwen.
4	Whooping Cough	M	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
5	Diphtheria	F	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
6	Influenza	M	3	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	2	1	3
7	Enccephalitis Lethargica	F	5	—	—	—	—	1	2	2	—	4	—	1
9	Respiratory Tuberculosis	M	—	—	—	—	2	7	1	—	—	—	1	—
10	Other Tuberculosis	F	12	—	—	—	8	3	3	—	4	13	2	5
13	Cancer	M	3	1	—	1	—	1	—	—	1	1	1	—
14	Diabetes	F	—	—	—	—	—	6	11	11	12	16	10	14
15	Cerebral Haemorrhage	M	28	—	—	—	1	5	10	8	—	—	—	—
16	Heart Disease	F	24	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	2	4	—	1
18	Other Circulatory	M	5	—	—	—	—	—	3	2	7	10	16	10
		F	25	—	—	—	2	1	9	15	—	—	—	—
		M	18	—	—	—	—	7	6	11	—	—	—	—
		F	50	—	1	2	1	7	16	22	21	26	23	31
		M	51	—	—	5	—	—	18	20	—	—	—	—
		F	8	1	—	—	—	—	2	5	2	8	6	2
		M	10	—	—	—	—	—	5	5	—	—	—	—

[illegible]

Table 4.

GLAMORGAN (ADMINISTRATIVE COUNTY) VITAL STATISTICS, 1938.

District.	Population.	BIRTHS.		DEATHS.		INFANT MORTALITY.	
		Number.	Rate per 1,000 pop.	No. of Deaths.	Crude rate per 1,000 population.	Deaths under 1 year.	Rate per Thousand Live Births.
Administrative County	708,500	10,921	15.4	8,939	12.6	656	60
Urban Districts	529,600	8,233	15.5	6,886	13.0	511	62
Rural Districts	178,900	2,688	15.0	2,053	11.5	145	54
England and Wales	—	—	15.1	—	11.6	—	53
<i>Urban Districts.</i>							
Aberdare	43,030	582	13.5	629	14.6	30	51
Barry	35,810	551	15.4	464	13.0	17	31
Bridgend	10,560	156	14.8	150	14.2	7	45
Caerphilly	32,180	557	17.3	417	13.0	37	66
Cowbridge	1,036	14	13.5	16	15.4	1	71
Gelligaer	36,660	685	18.7	447	12.2	38	55
Glyncorrwg	9,562	179	18.7	108	11.3	12	67
Llwehwr	25,720	386	15.0	290	11.3	22	57
Maesteg	22,440	411	18.3	279	12.4	36	88
Mountain Ash	33,700	568	16.8	434	12.9	26	46
Neath	31,480	468	14.9	378	12.0	28	60
Ogmore and Garw	23,860	405	17.0	276	11.6	20	49
Penarth	16,080	202	12.6	189	11.8	11	54
Pontypridd	38,610	551	14.3	529	13.7	48	87
Porthcawl	6,752	78	11.5	86	12.7	3	38
Port Talbot	40,180	708	17.6	516	12.8	54	76
Rhondda	121,940	1,732	14.2	1,678	13.8	121	70

Glamorgan (Administrative County) Vital Statistics, 1938 (*Con.*).

District.	Population.	BIRTHS.		DEATHS.		INFANT MORTALITY.	
		Number.	Rate per 1,000 pop.	No. of Deaths.	Crude rate per 1,000 population.	Deaths under 1 year.	Rate per Thousand Live Births.
<i>Rural Districts.</i>							
Cardiff	31,900	417	13.1	327	10.3	15	36
Cowbridge	10,450	182	17.4	150	14.4	9	49
Gower	10,400	138	13.3	117	11.3	7	51
Llantrisant & Llantwit Fardre	24,230	410	16.9	272	11.2	18	44
Neath	40,320	643	15.9	453	11.2	45	70
Penybont	27,660	462	16.7	321	11.6	27	58
PONTARDAWE	33,940	436	12.8	413	12.2	24	55.1

Table 5.

Births in District.

Month	Total Live Births			Still Births		Illegitimate		Transfers out		Cly-dach	Pontardawe	Ystalyfera	G.C.G.
	M.	F.	Total	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.				
Jan.	15	13	28	—	—	—	—	—	—	7	6	6	9
Feb.	12	26	38	1	1	1	1	—	—	11	10	9	8
March	15	19	34	1	—	—	1	—	—	11	9	10	4
April	10	12	22	1	—	—	—	—	—	8	7	3	4
May	17	17	34	1	—	1	—	2	—	5	8	8	11
June	12	17	29	—	—	1	1	—	—	6	9	6	8
July	18	19	37	1	1	—	—	1	—	6	15	8	7
Aug.	12	16	28	1	1	—	1	2	—	5	8	11	2
Sept.	16	15	31	—	1	2	—	—	—	7	6	8	10
Oct.	20	17	37	—	—	—	—	1	—	11	8	10	7
Nov.	18	15	33	—	—	—	—	1	—	12	9	7	4
Dec.	11	17	28	—	1	—	—	—	—	8	11	3	6
	176	203	379	6	5	5	4	7	—	97	106	89	80

Births Belonging to District Born Outside Area.

Table 6.

Month	PENRHIWTYN						Illegit- imate	N'sring Home		Cly- dach	Pontar- dawe	Ystaly- fera	G.C.G.
	Live Births			Still Births									
	M.	F.	Total	M.	F.	M.		F.	M.					F.
Jan.	4	3	7	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	5	1	—
Feb.	3	1	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	1	1
March	5	3	8	—	—	1	—	—	2	4	3	—	1
April	2	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
May	1	1	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—
June	5	—	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	1	1
July	—	3	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	2	—
Aug.	7	3	10	—	1	—	—	1	—	2	5	3	—
Sept.	3	1	4	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	2
Oct.	6	2	8	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	1	4
Nov.	3	2	5	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	3	2	—
Dec.	4	2	6	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	3	1	1
	43	21	64	—	3	1	—	1	2	11	29	13	11

Total live births in Area : Males 176
 Females 203

379

Total born in area which belonged to our area
 Transferred in from other areas

372

64

Corrected Total Live Births for Area

436

Still Births 24

Still Birth rate per 1,000 live and still births

52

8 Births were notified by doctors, and the remainder by midwives.

INFANT MORTALITY.

Nett Deaths at Various Ages under One Year.

Table 7.

Causes of Death.	Under 24 Hours		Under 1 week and over 24 hours		1-2 weeks		2-3 weeks		3-4 weeks		Total under one month		One month and under three months		3-6 months		6-9 months		9-12 months		Total under one year		Clydach		Pontardawe		Ystalyfera		G.C.G.	
	Under 24 Hours		Under 1 week and over 24 hours		1-2 weeks		2-3 weeks		3-4 weeks		Total under one month		One month and under three months		3-6 months		6-9 months		9-12 months		Total under one year		Clydach		Pontardawe		Ystalyfera		G.C.G.	
Spina Bifida	1	M	1		1						1										1		1		1					
Intracranial Haemorrhage	1	F	1								1										1		1		1					
Cyclic Vomiting		M									1										1		1		1					
Congenital		F																			1		1		1					
		M																			1		1		1					
Debility		F									1										1		1		1					
Prematurity	2	M	3				1		1		6										6		1		2		2		1	
Broncho Pneumonia		F									1										1		1		1					
Convulsions		M	1								1										3		1		2					
Splenic Anaemia		F	1		1						2										2		1		1					
		M	1								1										1		1		1					
Coeliac Disease		F																												
Whooping Cough		M																			1		1		1					
		F																			1		1		1					
TOTALS	3		7		2		1		2		15		1		2		3		3		24		7		9		2		6	

INFANTILE MORTALITY.

Table 8.

Year.	Total.	Rate per 1,000 Births.	Clydach.	Pontar- dawe.	Ystaly- fera.	G. C. G.
1912	91	89	11	30	18	32
1913	116	116	22	40	30	24
1915	134	138	34	37	24	39
1916	82	93	15	32	14	21
1917	65	75	18	22	7	18
1918	94	106	27	28	22	17
1919	73	88	21	17	15	20
1920	86	92	20	25	22	19
1921	87	88	24	20	14	29
1922	58	74	10	23	12	13
1923	60	80	14	20	12	14
1924	67	90	15	24	16	12
1925	41	59	9	10	8	14
1926	52	68	11	16	11	14
1927	59	100	9	20	16	14
1928	28	34	7	11	6	4
1929	48	48	12	13	11	12
1930	38	64	10	10	10	8
1931	40	72	8	16	6	10
1932	40	68	15	9	7	9
1933	34	70	11	10	8	5
1934	34	67	10	9	10	5
1935	34	65	12	7	8	7
1936	22	51	6	4	7	5
1937	30	65	7	11	7	5
1938	24	55.1	7	9	2	6

STATISTICS.

POPULATION.

Table 9.

Year	Population Estimated to Mid-Year	Clydach	Pontar- dawe	Ystaly- fera	G C G
1900	21,193	4,234	7,877	5,039	4,043
1901 (c)	20,931	4,167	7,812	4,974	3,978
1902	22,166	4,478	8,120	5,282	4,286
1903	22,946	4,673	8,315	5,477	4,481
1904	23,262	4,752	8,394	5,556	4,560
1905	23,600	4,848	8,482	5,618	4,652
1906	23,905	4,925	8,558	5,684	4,728
1907	25,879	5,512	9,170	5,847	5,350
1908	26,131	5,597	8,880	6,168	5,486
1909	26,741	5,738	9,055	6,325	5,623
1910	27,447	5,856	9,241	6,559	5,791
1911 (c)	31,681	6,775	10,181	7,205	7,420
1912	32,325	6,956	10,368	7,375	7,628
1913	32,892	7,082	10,492	7,508	7,810
1914	33,252	7,172	10,582	7,598	7,900
1915	32,506	7,122	10,278	7,377	7,729
1916	32,982	7,241	10,395	7,496	7,848
1917	31,890	6,968	10,124	7,223	7,575
1918	30,195	6,793	9,951	7,050	7,402
1919	33,280	8,089	10,419	7,781	7,991
1920	34,806	8,150	10,478	7,890	8,088
1921 (c)	34,523	8,412	10,776	7,283	8,052
1922	35,750	8,698	11,088	7,603	8,361
1923	36,160	8,818	11,158	7,703	8,581
1924	36,900	9,022	11,305	7,927	8,646
1925	36,890	9,020	11,300	7,926	8,644
1926	37,150	9,090	11,360	8,024	8,676
1927	37,470	9,162	11,442	8,068	8,798
1928	36,960	8,958	11,340	7,966	8,696
1929	37,730	9,149	11,535	8,157	8,889
1930	37,730	9,149	11,539	8,157	8,889
1931 (c)	36,569	8,859	11,244	7,867	8,599
1932	36,100	8,742	11,126	7,750	8,482
1933	35,520	8,599	10,979	7,605	8,337
1934	34,760	8,409	10,789	7,450	8,147
1935	34,980	8,464	10,844	7,470	8,202
1936	34,850	8,498	10,876	7,502	8,234
1937	34,980	8,464	10,844	7,470	8,202
1938	33,490	8,470	10,050	7,320	8,100

Deaths from Violence.

	M. F.	Cly- dach	Pontar- dawe	Ystaly- fera	G.C.G.	Totals.
<i>A. Works.</i>						
1. Collieries	5 -	1	1	1	2	5 } 6
2. Others	1 -	-	-	-	1	1 }
<i>B. Roads.</i>						
1. Motor Vehicles	1 -	-	-	-	1	1 } 3
2. Pedestrians	2 -	-	1	1	-	2 }
<i>C. Others.</i>						
1. Scalds	- 1	-	-	1	-	1
2. Domestic Accidents	2 2	-	1	2	1	4 } 10
3. Accidental Drowning	2 1	-	1	1	1	3 }
4. Abortion	- 2	-	1	-	1	2 }
Totals	13 6	1	5	6	7	19

Suicides.

	M. F.	Cly- dach	Pontar- dawe	Ystaly- fera	G.C.G.	Total.
Hanging	1 1	-	-	1	1	2

SECTION B.—GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES
IN THE AREA.

(a) LABORATORY FACILITIES.

The County Laboratory at Cardiff is used for all pathological examinations ; also for milk, water and food analysis.

During the year the following specimens were sent to be examined :—

Diphtheria Swabs—149 from Senior School, Gwaun-Cae-Gurwen.

2 positives for carrier.

38 from General Practitioners.

10 positives.

Water : (81)

Bacteriological Examination 38

Chemical Examination 20

Milk :

Bacteriological Examination 98

Chemical Examination 22

Tubercle Bacilli 6

Sewage 36

Swabs were also sent from the Isolation Hospital.

A small Laboratory has now been built at the Council Offices and a large number of swabs have been sent in by Local Practitioners to be tested.

(b) AMBULANCE FACILITIES.

The Isolation Hospital Ambulance is used for all Infectious Diseases.

Non-Infectious and Accident Cases are conveyed by private or St. John's Ambulances.

The Ambulances in the area are as follows :—

	Cly- dach	Pontar- dawe	Ystaly- fera	Cwmllyn- fell	G.C.G.
St. John's	1	—	—	1	1
Mond Nickel	1	—	—	—	—
Private	1	—	—	—	—
Gilbertsons	—	1	—	—	—
Isolation	—	1	—	—	—
Public	—	—	1	—	—
Total	3	2	1	1	1

(c) NURSING IN THE HOME.

This is carried out by the Queen's Association in general nursing. In Pontardawe they do both general and maternity nursing. There is no definite co-ordination between the District Nursing Association and the Council, but the Council contributes to the Association very generously.

(d) TREATMENT CENTRES AND CLINICS.

(i) Maternity and Child Welfare Centres.

			Days.	Hours of Attendance.
Pontardawe	Weekly	.....	Wednesdays	3 p.m.
Pontardawe Toddlers	Monthly	.....	Thursdays	3 p.m.
Clydach	Fortnightly	.....	Wednesdays	3 p.m.
Ystalyfera	Weekly	.....	Tuesdays and Wednesdays	3 p.m.

Gwaun-Cae-Gurwen	Weekly	..... Tuesdays and Wednesdays	3 p.m.
Godre'rgrraig	..... Fortnightly	Thursdays	..... 3 p.m.
Godre'rgrraig-Toddlers	Monthly	..... Mondays	..... 4 p.m.
Cwmllynfell	..... Fortnightly	Thursdays	..... 4 p.m.

Clydach Clinic. Church Hall, Down Street, Clydach.

The Hall is well suited for the work and there are separate rooms for weighing and medical inspection. The Minor Hall is used for tea.

Pontardawe Clinic. Ynisderw House, Pontardawe.

This is centrally situated in Pontardawe. There is a large entrance hall where prams are stored, a waiting room, weighing room and doctors' room. Central Heating. This is quite suitable for the purpose.

Ystalyfera Clinic.

This is totally inadequate. There is a small waiting room, a very small doctors' room, and the weighing is done in a dark back kitchen. The front door leads directly on to a busy main road and is most dangerous.

Plans have been submitted to the Welsh Board of Health for the construction of a new Clinic, which, in my opinion, is badly needed.

Godre'rgrraig Clinic. Miners' Welfare Hall.

Two large rooms. Stove heating. These premises are quite satisfactory.

Cwmllynfell Clinic. Vestry of Cwmllynfell Chapel.

There is a separate waiting room, weighing room and doctors' room. This is quite satisfactory.

Gwaun-Cae-Gurwen Clinic. Welfare Hall, Gwaun-Cae-Gurwen.

There is a large waiting room, kitchen, doctors' room and weighing room. The only difficulty in this place is the dark stairway to the doctors' and weighing rooms.

(ii) **Tuberculosis Dispensary.** Herbert Street, Pontardawe. Consultations every Wednesday from 10 a.m. to 12 noon.

(iii) **V. D. Clinics.** Held at Port Talbot (Glamorgan County Council) and Swansea Hospital.

(iv) **Orthopaedic Clinics.** Held when necessary at the Clinic at the Pontardawe Infants' School on Fridays. Arrangements are made by the County to deal with orthopaedic cases needing treatment at the Prince of Wales Hospital, Cardiff.

The existing arrangement is that the cost of hospital treatment and appliances is borne by the local authority and the clinic, and after-care treatment is borne by the County at a nominal rate.

(e) **HOSPITALS.**

1. **PUBLIC HOSPITALS.**—Provided or subsidised by the Sanitary Authorities or by the County Council.

(i) **Fever Hospital, Gellynudd.**

30 Beds. This hospital needs thorough overhauling if it is to be used as a hospital.

The new Isolation Hospital at Tonna, Neath, is completed and will be opened in April.

(ii) **Small Pox Hospital, Gwrhyd.**

12 beds available for use.

(iii) **Sanatoria.**

Adelina Patti, Craig-y-Nos; Cimla Hospital, Neath; and Talgarth, under the Welsh National Memorial Association.

(iv) **Penrhiwtyn Hospital.**

This is a Public Assistance Hospital and has done very good work. It does general, medical and surgical work.

The Council has an arrangement with the County Council for complicated cases of midwifery to be admitted. The County Council receives a written undertaking from the patient stating that the whole of the amount will be repaid. Each case is then considered by the Maternity and Child Welfare Committee on its merit, and if the patient is not in a position to discharge the hospital expenses the Council undertakes to pay the amount, less the National Health Benefit received by the patient.

There is also an Ante-Natal Clinic where women who desire to enter the hospital for their confinement must attend on Mondays. This has proved of great use to the district, and the number of women who attend is growing every year.

Arrangements have also been made for the reception of:

- (a) Cases of Puerperal Pyrexia and Puerperal Fever.
- (b) Tonsil and Adenoid operation cases.
- (c) Orthopaedic Cases.

(v) **Prince of Wales Hospital, Cardiff.**

This is the orthopaedic hospital for the area, and cases are admitted through the County Council, but the Pontardawe Council is responsible for payment, also for any appliances ordered.

2. VOLUNTARY HOSPITALS.

(i) **Swansea General Hospital.**

331 Beds. This Hospital is fully equipped for general, medical and surgical cases ; also has X-ray, denture, ophthalmic and massage departments.

(ii) **Clydach Memorial Hospital.**

Beds : 10 male, 10 female, 10 children.

This Hospital has a well equipped X-ray department ; and there has recently been added a portable X-ray Plant through the generosity of the Mond Nickel Co. This enables a patient to be X-rayed in his bed and thus saves the patient unnecessary suffering.

There is also a massage and eye department.

This Hospital has proved of great service to the people of Clydach.

(iii) **Glanamman Cottage Hospital.**

Beds : 11 male, 9 female, 2 children.

The latest addition to Cottage Hospitals has already proved the value of these small hospital units to scattered communities.

(iv) There are no Nursing Homes in the area.

(f) **POST MORTEM ROOMS.**

Clydach	.....	Coedgwilym Cemetery.
Ystalyfera	.....	Darren Road.
Pontardawe	.....	Infirmery, Brecon Road.
		Isolation Hospital.
Gwaun-Cae-Gurwen		Gate Street.

These Post Mortem Rooms were built specially for the purpose of performing post mortem examinations, and are therefore fully equipped. They have proved of real value to our district inasmuch as it is not now necessary to conduct post mortem examinations at the home of the deceased.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.

Live Births	436	Still Births	24	Total	460
By Midwives	431	By Doctors present	8		
Health Visitors	1	Voluntary Association	4		

Number of visits paid during the year by all Health Visitors :

(a) To expectant mothers : 1st visits	45
Total visits	162
(b) To children under 1 year of age : 1st visit	416
Total visits	2790
(c) To children between the ages of 1 and 5 years :	
Total visits	3401

Total Number of Centres 6

Total number of attendances at all Centres during the year and who on the date of their first attendance were—

(a) Under 1 year of age	243
(b) Between the ages of 1 and 5 years	9

Total number of children under 5 years of age who attended at the Centres during the year and who at the end of the year were—

(a) Under 1 year	413
(b) Over 1 year	544

Percentage of attendance as compared with number of live births—57.4.

Total quantity of milk supplied during the year to expectant and nursing mothers and young children :

Milk 16,708 gallons. Cost, £1,810 0s. 0d.

Dried Foods 400 lbs. Cost, £124 8s. 11d.

The following is the scale of income adopted by the Council for determining the extent to which an application for free milk may be granted. Where the income does not exceed the amount given in the scale, free milk may be given.

<i>No. of Children in Family.</i>		<i>Present Scale of Income per Head.</i>		<i>Total.</i>
		s.	d.	s. d.
Plus Parents.	1	13	0	39 0
	2	10	6	42 0
	3	8	6	42 6
	4	7	6	45 0
	5	7	0	49 0
	6	6	6	52 0
	7	6	6	58 6

Record of Attendances at Clinics.

	No. on Register.	Average Attendance.	Percentage of Attendances.
Clydach	68	53	77.9
Pontardawe	200	96	48.0
Gwaun-Cae-Gurwen	110	62	56.4
Cwmllynfell	65	42	64.6
Ystalyfera	78	36	46.2
Godre'rgrraig	58	32	55.1

Toddlers' Clinics.

	No. on Register.	Average Attendance.	Percentage of Attendances.
Pontardawe	62	36	58.0
Godre'rgrraig	40	25	62.5

Number of mothers sent by the Council during the year to Penrhiwtyn Maternity Institution—7.

Number of Home Helps—27. Cost £28 17s. 5d.

Maternal Deaths.

Placenta Praevia	1	} Died in Institution.
Ruptured Extopic	1	
Abortions	2	

Special Foods given at Clinics.

Cow and Gate.
Trufood.
Cod Liver Oil and Malt.

No. of Dental Cases treated at the County Clinic	32
No. of Orthopaedic Cases	19
No. of Ophthalmic Cases	3
No. of Tonsillectomy Cases	17

Infant Life Protection.

(Part I—Children's Act, 1908, as amended by the Children's and Young Persons Act, 1932.)

It was advertised in the Local Press that the Medical Officer of Health was to be notified at once of any children under the above Act. All such cases would then be seen by the Health Visitor at regular intervals.

During the year 1938 there was one child on the register. This child was visited on several occasions by the Health Visitor, and the home conditions were found to be satisfactory.

Ophthalmia Neonatorum.

Notified.	Area.	Treated		Vision.	Deaths.	Total Blindness.
		Home.	Hospital.			
Boy, 11 days	Gwaun-cae-gurwen	Yes	—	Unimpaired	Nil	Nil
Boy	Pontardawe	Yes	—	Unimpaired	Nil	Nil

Maternal Mortality and Ante-Natal Clinics.

While death rates from nearly every other cause have been steadily falling, there has until very recently been a slight but definite upward trend in the maternal mortality rate for many years. The risk of childbirth is not very high—about one maternal death to about 260 live births in England and Wales—one in 125 in the Pontardawe Area.

Nevertheless there should only be a very limited risk in a normal physiological process and no maternity service can be regarded as adequate until such risk has been reduced below the present level.

The incidence of puerperal mortality is higher in certain regions of England and Wales than in others, and there has been approximately the same regional distribution for the past 50 years. Wales has a consistently higher rate than England.

In 1928 a Departmental Committee on Maternal Mortality and Morbidity was appointed by the Ministry of Health to enquire into the whole problem of the high maternal mortality rate. They issued the final report in 1932. They were concerned chiefly in discovering which were the primary avoidable causes in the train of events that led up to the fatal issue. From their evidence they concluded that absence of adequate ante natal care and error of judgment on the part of doctors and midwives were the most common avoidable causes, while a lack of reasonable facilities and negligence on the part of the patient and her friends were also of considerable importance.

The Committee held that while there can be no doubt that abortion plays a serious and regrettable part in the production of puerperal sepsis, and therefore in the causation of maternal mortality and death, they do not agree that abortion has so greatly increased the death rate in recent years.

In 1937 two reports, published by the Ministry of Health on investigations carried out by Medical Officers of the Ministry, were reported on as follows :—

Cause of High Maternal Mortality.

1. Absence or inadequacy of ante natal services.
2. Errors of judgment on the part of doctors or midwives.
3. Lack of effective medical treatment.
4. Failure on the part of the mothers to seek advice, or to follow advice given.

In 1935—

39% of all puerperal deaths in England and Wales were from Sepsis.

10% of all puerperal deaths in England and Wales were from Haemorrhage.

14% of all puerperal deaths in England and Wales followed Abortion.

Thus from the above it is obvious that each local authority must take all possible steps to reduce the number of maternal deaths.

MATERNITY SERVICES.

These may conveniently be divided into :

1. Ante Natal Care Services.
2. Services available at the time of Confinement.
3. Post Natal Care Services.

1. Ante Natal Care.

This is provided by :

- (a) Private Doctor.
- (b) Midwife.
- (c) Ante Natal Clinic.

If the general practitioner undertakes the ante natal care, the local authority has the power to pay for this, and in country districts where it is impractical to provide clinics because of the distances, many County Councils make arrangements for uninsured women to be examined at doctors' surgeries without charge.

2 Ante Natal Clinics.

These are of two types :

- (a) Consultative.
- (b) Routine Examination.

The Consultative Clinic.

This will be staffed by an obstetrician of high standing, since it could not otherwise adequately perform its high functions. To this clinic will be referred cases from Examination Ante Natal Clinics.

Routine Examination.

The well organized ante natal clinic undoubtedly does very good work, and it makes provision for nursing, educational and the social side of pre-natal supervision as well as for regular examination, and arrangements can be made through the Clinic for following up in the home and ascertaining the need for material help.

The Report on the investigation into Maternal Mortality emphasized the importance of close co-operation between the clinic and all persons in whose charge the women may be during pregnancy and confinement.

Each ante natal clinic should work in association with a hospital so that cases may be admitted when necessary without any delay.

Midwives should be asked to accompany their patients to the clinic, and education of the mothers in the hygiene of pregnancy should be the duty of midwives and health visitors.

3. Post Natal Services.

No post natal service has been established in the area. When an ante natal service is established the post natal work could be done at the ante natal clinic in conjunction with the local doctors, and cases could then be referred to the consultative clinic.

PRESENT ARRANGEMENTS IN THE AREA.

(a) Doctors do their own ante natal work.

(b) Women have a free choice of doctors and midwives.

(c) Arrangements have been made with Penrhiwtyn Hospital for emergency beds; also Penrhiwtyn has an ante natal clinic for women who intend to become in-patients for the confinement.

(d) Consultant Services: Arrangements have been made for the services of Dr. J. Lloyd Davies, Swansea. Not sufficient use has been made of this service.

					<i>No. of Deaths.</i>
In 1937	he	was	called	in on 1 occasion	3
In 1936	„	„	„	2 occasions	2
In 1935	„	„	„	4 „	4
In 1934	„	„	„	0 „	6
In 1933	„	„	„	5 „	3
In 1932	„	„	„	3 „	4

From the above we think that there were several occasions when the timely help of Dr. Lloyd Davies might have saved a life, and greater use of this service must be made.

(e) Home Helps : The service of Home Helps for women who are incapacitated during pregnancy and for those who need assistance in the home during the lying-in period has proved of great value to this area, but this system of home helps needs revision, and it is now proposed to form a panel of suitable women in each area who can act as home helps.

(f) Provision of Food for Expectant Mothers : Local authorities have power to provide milk or food during pregnancy or confinement. In the Rhondda Valley the puerperal death rate from 10,384 expectant mothers who received extra nourishment was 1.64 per 1,000 births, whereas among 18,854 other cases in the same area, the puerperal death rate was 6.15 per 1,000 births. The still births and neonatal death rate among the first group was nearly 50% less than the second group.

The Report on Maternal Mortality in Wales stated that there were many expectant mothers not receiving an adequate diet, particularly in rural areas. Thus it is suggested doctors should recommend in necessitous cases vitamin concentrates such as Cod Liver Oil, Bemax, and Marmite.

(g) Transport Facilities : As an integral part of the hospital service, proper facilities should be provided for the transport of patients.

Arrangements are now being made with the various ambulance authorities in our area to provide an ambulance whenever it is necessary.

(h) Dental Facilities : Dental treatment and the provision of dentures has been provided for by the local authority.

(i) **Laboratory Facilities :** Arrangements have been made with the Glamorgan County Laboratory, Cardiff, for the laboratory examination of pathological material in connection with maternity cases. This service has seldom been utilized.

Team Work.

Periodical meetings of the medical practitioners and the attendance of Dr. J. Lloyd Davies will be arranged ; meetings to be held at the Council Offices, Pontardawe. This, we hope, will encourage the co-operation of the doctors and the local authority.

Other meetings will be arranged between the midwives and the health visitors.

Emergency Units.

The Ministry of Health's Maternal Mortality Report shows that lives are lost through women being sent to hospital because the necessary expert services are not available in their homes, and emphasizes the necessity for arranging in certain types of cases for the service of skilled hospital staff to be brought to the patient instead of subjecting her to the risk of transport to the hospital. In some areas these arrangements have already been made by establishing an "emergency unit" consisting of a consulting obstetrician and a nurse who are available, with all the necessary equipment for dealing with emergencies for attendance at short notice when summoned by a doctor. Such cases would not occur very often, but the Minister hopes that all local authorities will take all possible steps to secure its establishment.

This is a matter which concerns Dr. Lloyd Davies, and arrangements will be made with him for the formation of such a unit. Thus when a doctor requires the help of Dr. Davies as full particulars as possible should be given of the case so as to enable him to decide if he requires the Emergency Unit.

Birth Control.

It is essential that advice about birth control should be available to those who want it, since it is often necessary on medical grounds. Moreover, the lack of knowledge about birth control undoubtedly leads to a high maternal death rate due to criminal abortion. This general supervision of maternal health is work that general practitioners might undertake.

Records.

The Minister considers that each authority should review its system of record keeping both for the doctors and midwives, which should be placed at the disposal of the medical practitioners who may be responsible for the treatment of the patient. A case sheet should be kept of every confinement and this should then be sent to the Medical Officer of Health. These records can then be filed and will be of great use in any future confinement.

Health Visiting of Mothers.

Health visiting of mothers is an important part of the maternity and child welfare service. The chief purpose of health visitors is to supervise by home visiting the health of expectant and nursing mothers.

ANTE NATAL SCHEME.

The following is the suggested scheme of arrangements to be made for the ante-natal examination by a doctor of necessitous expectant mothers (who do not come under the National Health Insurance Acts or for whom the doctor is under contract to give an examination at his surgery or at the patients' home) and will only apply to participating cases in which the services of a midwife have been engaged.

Method of Procedure.

The general practitioner is to be supplied with a Form upon which is written all the necessary data regarding pregnancy. This Form is to be made out in triplicate—one copy to be retained by the doctor, one to be given to the midwife, and one sent to the Medical Officer of Health.

One examination is to be allowed to each person, but provision is to be made on the Form for the practitioner to state whether in his opinion a further examination is necessary, either by himself or by a consultant obstetrician; but it is to be clearly understood that the examination can only be permitted after reference to the Medical Officer of Health. Permission has also to be obtained in cases where a third examination is found necessary, and also for a post-natal examination.

Financial Details.

A fee of 5/- is to be paid for each examination which is not to be recoverable by the Council from the patient. No time is to be fixed for the examination relative to the period of pregnancy, but it is suggested that it should take place between the 26th and 32nd week.

ANTE NATAL SCHEME.

Name of Doctor.....*Address*.....
Name of Patient.....*Address*.....
Age.....*Married or Single*.....*Previous Pregnancies*.....
History of last Confinement : *Normal*.....*Forceps*.....
Date of last Menstruation.....*Expected Date of Confinement*.....
Pelvic Measurements : *Ant. Interspinous*.....*Intercristal*.....
Ext. Conjugate.....*Present Position*.....
Urine.....*Albumen*.....*Pus*.....*Sugar*.....*S.G.*.....
Blood Pressurc.....*Systolic*.....*Diastolic*.....*Oedema*.....
Home Conditions : *Good*.....*Fair*.....*Poor*.....

If further examinations are necessary by General Practitioner or by Consultant, please sign below :

Are Examinations Required	By G.P.	By Consultant.	Authority of M.O.H.
2nd Examination			
3rd Examination			

	2nd Examination.	3rd Examination
Urine Blood Pressure Position Any Special Circumstances		

HISTORY OF CONFINEMENT : Nurse only *Doctor*
Normal..... *Forceps*
Recovery : *Good*..... *Fair*..... *Bad*.....

FOR OFFICE USE.

Name of Patient _____

Address _____

Name of Doctor _____

Address _____

No.

Fees for Examination: 5/-, 10/-, 15/-.

Certified Correct **100%**

Medical Officer of Health.

MATERNAL MORTALITY.

<i>Year.</i>	<i>Maternal Mortality.</i>	<i>Rate per 1,000 Births.</i>
1927	4	6.8
1928	4	6.1
1929	4	6.7
1930	4	6.7
1931	3	5.4
1932	4	6.7
1933	3	5.8
1934	6	10.9
1935	4	7.0
1936	2	4.2
1937	3	6.5
1938	4	8.9

In 1938 there were four deaths from Puerperal Causes—

Ectopic Gestation	.....	1
Placenta Praevia	.....	2
Puerperal Sepsis	.....	1

In addition to the above four deaths, there were three mothers who were certified as having died from causes associated with pregnancy as follows :

Abortion	.....	.....	2
Pneumonia	.....	.....	1

SECTION C.—SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.**WATER SUPPLY.**

There are 45 supplies in the area, most of them are springs, and one is the Cray Water Supply.

Samples were taken at intervals for analysis. 38 samples were examined bacteriologically and 20 chemically.

The chemical analysis showed a difference in hardness in the different districts : this depends on the strata from which the water is derived.

Clydach and District.

Craigeeffnparc is supplied by Ffynon Las, Cefn Pare, Rhydygwin and Lluast Springs which run into a storage tank near the school.

Analysis of this water shows that it is a soft water of acid reaction and no evidence of organic contamination. There is evidence that this water has plumbo solvent powers. One sample contained dissolved lead, 1/18th grain per gallon after

the water had stood in the pipes overnight. A further sample taken after the water had been allowed to run to waste showed no lead present. Advice was given to all householders with lead pipes to run the water to waste for five minutes in the morning ; also for new houses to have copper pipes.

Clydach is supplied by Cray, the Cefneithrim and Penybank Tanks which are supplied from Alltyganwy Springs. Bacteriological examination was satisfactory.

Trebanos is supplied by the following springs : Penygraig, Glynmeirch and Marie Powell Springs. Bacteriological examination is satisfactory. Cray can also be used.

Pontardawe and surrounding villages are supplied by the March Howell supply which runs into tanks at Plasywern, Bryn Llewellyn. There are also four other supplies to these tanks, namely Pentre Hearn Spring, Ffynon Grech Spring, Cwmnantddu Old Level, and Dan Griffiths Spring.

Cilybebyll is supplied by springs from Wigfa and this flows into a tank at Tynyrheol. This is a very poor supply, and during the early part of the year had to be supplemented. This is a poor collecting area. Bacteriological examination shows it to be of doubtful bacterial purity.

Rhos is supplied by the March Howell Supply from Plas-y-waun Tank.

Gwaun-Cae-Gurwen has now two supplies—the Cray supply which comes via Pontardawe, and the Black Mountain supply. In 1933 a Pumping Station was built at Gwaun-Cae-Gurwen which pumped water to a Storage Tank at Penhow.

Ystalyfera has several small supplies and also the Cray supply. The following are a list of the small supplies : Llygady-Ffynon, School Tank, Pentwyn Tank. All these waters have been tested and found satisfactory.

Cwmllynfell and Rhiwfawr. Here we have small springs and storage tanks, namely Coedffaldau Tank and Spring, Castle Square Tank, and Dderi Tank and Spring. At the beginning of the year the Coedffaldau supply was not satisfactory but various improvements have been made and later results are quite satisfactory.

Garnswllt. There are two springs which run into the Garnswllt Storage Tank. These then supply as far as Cathan Terrace. This supply is quite pure.

CILYBEBYLL SUPPLY.

	<i>Gallons.</i>
Plasywaun, 12 months supply	6,114,000
Penyralltwen, 8—2/3 months supply =5,328,490 gallons.	
Estimate 12 months	7,378,000
Total March Howell	13,492,000

CRAY SUPPLY.

Purchased ex Swansea Corporation.	
12 months supply	307,018,000

In 1911 the chief sources of local supplies, together with the respective Storage Tanks and their capacity were :

	<i>Capacity in Gallons.</i>
Clydach	40,000
Trebanos	30,000
Pontardawe	60,000
Ynismeudw	10,000
Ystalyfera	30,000
Ystalyfera	15,000
Cwmtwrch	15,000
Cwmllynfell	10,000
Brynamman	30,000
Cwmgorse	10,000
Rhydyfro	10,000
Penygraig, Trebanos	20,000

Cray Reservoir was established on the 2nd October, 1907.

The following are the date when the various Water Supplies were constructed :

- 1937 Mechanical Filter at Bryn, Black Mountain.
- 1937 Storage Tank at Bryn Llewellyn.
- 1936 Storage Tank at Rhiwfawr.
- 1936 Fencing round Coedffaldau Springs.
- 1935 Neutralization Plant at Lluast, Craigceffuparc.
- 1933 Pumping Scheme at Gwaun-Cae-Gurwen.
- 1933 Storage Tank at Penhow.
- 1932 Rhiwfawr Storage Tank enlarged.
- 1932 Storage Tank at Lluast.
- 1931 Storage Tank at Hcol Las enlarged.

- 1929 Building a Break-Presssure Tank at Garnswllt.
 1928 Storage Tank at Cefneithrim.
 1926 Storage Tank at Velindre.
 1925 Water Mains supplied for Velindre.
 1919 Additional Collecting Spring to the Black Mountain Tank.
 1913 Storage Tank at Glynmeirch, Trebanos.
 1912 Storage Tank at Bryn, Brynamman (20,000 gallons).
 1912 Storage Tank at Cwm-Nant-Hopkin (20,000 gallons).
 (Not in use.)
 1912 Storage Tank at Rhiwfawr.
 1912 Storage Tank at Penybank, Clydach (58,000 gallons).
 1911 Storage Tank at Penygraig (20,000 gallons).
 In 1911 the Council supplied the area with 305,000 gallons
 per day.
 In 1911 Cray supplied the area with 99,000 gallons per day.
 Total, 404,000.

There are no gathering grounds. Each supply comes from
 gravel and shale except Penygraig, which comes from peat.

CHEMICAL ANALYSIS OF WATER.

<i>Name.</i>	<i>Reaction.</i>	<i>Chlorides.</i>	<i>Hardness.</i>	<i>Metals.</i>
Black Mountain	5.6	1.0	.6	Nil
Pentrehearn	7.0	1.0	11.6	Nil
Rhydygwin	5.8	1.4	2.0	Trace of lead.
Cray	6.8	.8	3.6	Nil
Lluast Spring	5.8	—	1.0	Trace of lead.
Ffynnon Grech	7.1	—	17.2	Nil
March Howell	5.6	—	1.8	Nil
Cwmnantddu	7.4	1.0	12.0	Nil
Pen How	6.6	1.0	3.4	Iron**
Pentwyn	7.0	1.2	16.0	Nil.
Ffynnon Las	5.6	1.2	2.2	Nil
Llanrwst	5.6	1.2	1.0	Nil
Pencaedu	6.8	1.1	2.4	Nil
Penlan, Cwmllynfell	6.8	1.1	8.2	Nil
Spring, Graigola Road	6.2	1.5	4.0	Nil
Ffynnon John Clee	5.6	—	7.2	Nil
Ffynnon Owen	6.0	—	7.6	Nil
Coed Cae	5.4	—	2.4	Nil

The following is a list of Water Samples taken during the year.

In future all Springs and Tanks in the District will be numbered instead of named as the names give rise to errors.

	No.	Date.	Result.	Date.	Result.	Date.	Result.
Nant Marl	1	24/4/38	Satisfactory				
Wigfa	2						
Tyn-yr-heol	3	30/5/38	Doubtful				
Bryn Llowelyn	4	28/3/38	Satisfactory				
Plas-y-Waun	5	28/3/38	Satisfactory				
March Howell	6	28/3/38	Satisfactory	17/8/38	Moderate	26/12/38	Satisfactory.
Pentre Harn	7	28/3/38	Satisfactory				
Ffynon Grech	8						
Wern Ddu	9	4/11/38	Satisfactory				
Cwmeymach	10	28/3/38	Satisfactory				
Penybank Storage	11						
Cefneithrim	12	29/3/38	Satisfactory				
Ffynon Las	13	28/3/38	Satisfactory				
Lluast Spring	14	28/3/38	Satisfactory				
Cefn Parc Spring	15	28/3/38	Satisfactory	17/8/38	Fair		
Rhydygwin	16	28/4/38	Satisfactory				
Rhydypanyd	17						
Hendre Fawr	18	4/4/38	Satisfactory				
Garnswllt Storage	19	4/4/38	Satisfactory				
Blaen Ffynon Mawr	20	4/4/38	Satisfactory				
Mario Powell	21	28/4/38	Satisfactory				
Penygraig	22	4/4/38	Contaminated				
Cwmnant Ddu	23	28/3/38	Satisfactory	29/8/38	Satisfactory		Satisfactory
Pentwyn Tank	24	30/3/38	Satisfactory	18/11/38	Satisfactory		Satisfactory
School Tank	25	30/3/38	Moderate	29/8/38	Doubtful		Doubtful

	No.	Date.	Result.	Date.	Result.	Date.	Result.
Llygad-y-Ffynon	26	30/3/38	Fair				
Penlan	27	30/3/38	Doubtful				
Coedffaldau	28	30/3/38	Moderate	29/8/38	Moderate	12/12/38	Satisfactory.
Dderi Supply	29						
Llwynhen Tank	30	31/3/38	Satisfactory				
Llwynrhedfan	31	29/3/38	Satisfactory				
Brynamman Storage	32						
Pencædu	33	18/6/38	Fair				
Castle Square	34						
Cray	35	22/3/38	Satisfactory	17/8/38	Doubtful		
Coed Cae Springs	36	29/8/38	Moderate	12/9/38	Satisfactory		
Black Mountain	37	4/4/38	Satisfactory				
Glynmeirch Tank	38	29/3/38	Contaminated				
Cwmcerdinen	39	4/4/38	Satisfactory				
Ystradowen	40	30/3/38	Satisfactory				
Rock and Fountain	41	28/3/38	Satisfactory				
Brynawel	42	18/6/38	Moderate	17/8/38	Fair		
New Brook Level	43	12/4/38	Fair				
Daniel Griffith	44	12/4/38	Fair				
Penhow	45						
Velindre Supply	46						

THE RIVER TAWE AND ITS TRIBUTARIES.

The River Tawe rises to the North-East of Llynnyfan Fawr in the County of Breconshire, about 1,900 feet above Ordnance Datum and flows in a South Westerly direction along the Swansea Valley into Swansea Bay. Its length is approximately $28\frac{1}{2}$ miles, 16 miles of which are in the County of Brecon and $12\frac{1}{2}$ in Glamorganshire. It has a gradient of 1 in 79.

TRIBUTARIES.

(1) River Giedd.

Rises South of Bannau Sir Gaer at 2,000 feet above sea level and flows down through the woodlands of the Cwmgiedd Valley in the County of Brecon. It is about $5\frac{1}{2}$ miles long with a fall of 1 in 31.

(2) River Twrch.

Rises South-West of Bannau Sir Gaer in the County of Carmarthen at about 2,000 feet above sea level. Its length is $9\frac{1}{2}$ miles, of which 3 miles are in Glamorganshire and the remainder intersect the county boundary of Carmarthen and Brecon. Its gradient is 1 in 29. The River Twrch has as its tributaries the Rivers Nant Lluestaun, Twrch Fechan, Gwys and Llynfell, all of which join the Twrch at or near Gwys.

There are a number of collieries and tinplate works on the banks of the River Twrch.

(3) Cwmdu.

Rises at Corsgaranod Woods, Rhiwfawr, and flows for 4 miles when it empties into the Tawe at Ynismeudw, two miles North-East of Pontardawe. This small river drains the Gwrhyd Valley, which is partly wooded.

(4) Upper Clydach.

Rises at Penlllerfedwen Mountain about 950 feet above sea level, is 6 miles long and has a fall of 1 in 37. This river with its tributary, the Egel, drains the Cwmgorse and Egel Valleys, and discharges into the Tawe at Pontardawe.

(5) Lower Clydach.

Rises on Mynydd Bettws (at Banc Carn Helen) in the County of Carmarthen at 950 feet above sea level; is 8 miles long, most of which is in Glamorgan, and has a fall of 1 in 110. This tributary joins the Tawe at Clydach.

The distance from the source of the Tawe to the confluence with the Twrch is 16 miles; from the Twrch to the confluence with the Upper Clydach is 5 miles; and from the Upper Clydach to the confluence with the Lower Clydach the distance is 3 miles.

ABSTRACTIONS.

Woodlands.

These are chiefly in the nature of coppices and can well be ignored.

Swansea Canal.

An artificial Canal is carried from Swansea along the length of the Swansea Valley to Abercrave in Breconshire. This canal was completed in 1798 and is now owned by the Great Western Railway Company. It was originally constructed for navigation, but is now used solely for the supply of water for industrial purposes. The canal receives its water chiefly from the Tawe, Twrch, Giedd and Lower Clydach Rivers.

The normal intake of water to the canal from the rivers is 600,000 gallons, with about 450,000 gallons in times of drought.

The following are the intakes from the several rivers to the Canal :

- From River Tawe at Abercrave, near Neuadd Chapel.
- From River Tawe below Ystalyfera Tinplate Works.
- From River Tawe at rear of Clydach Public Hall.
- From River Giedd at Cwmgiedd near Pont-y-Giedd.
- From River Twrch near Gurnos Aqueduct.
- From River Lower Clydach near Forge Fach, Clydach.
- From River Lower Clydach near Clydach Station.

In times of flood the surplus water in the canal is released into the Tawe, and the overflows are situated as follows :—

- At rear of Castle Hotel, Abercrave.
- At rear of Masons' Arms, Ystradgynlais.
- Aqueduct over River Twrch at Gurnos.
- Below Clces Lanc, Ystalyfera.
- Near Bryn Works, Ynismeudw.
- At Aqueduct over Upper Clydach River, Pontardawe.
- At Trebanos below bridge leading to the Green.
- At Clay Mill below Coddgwilym Cemetery.
- At Aqueduct over Lower Clydach, Clydach.
- At Ynistawe behind Moriah Chapel.

Water may also be released from the Canal to the River Tawe in times of cleaning and dredging, and Sluices are situated at the following points :

At rear of Rheola Public House, Abercrave.
 Above Castle Hotel, Abercrave.
 Aqueduct over River Cwm Giedd.
 Near Masons' Arms, Ystradgynlais.
 Aqueduct over River Twrch at Gurnos.
 Behind Ynisydarren Housing Site, Ystalyfera.
 Below Clees Lane, Ystalyfera.
 Near Bryn Works, Ynismeudw.
 Near Nicholas Farm, Ynismeudw.
 Aqueduct over Upper Clydach River, Pontardawe.
 Below the Green, Trebanos.
 At Clay Mill near Coedgwilym Cemetery.
 Aqueduct over Lower Clydach River.
 Above old Clydach Fuel Works.
 Tircanol above Midland Works, Morriston.
 Neath Road, Morriston, near Dolphin Public House.
 Near Old Spelter Works, Morriston.
 Near Old Coopers' Arms, Landore.

Pollution of Rivers and Streams.

No action was taken during the year.

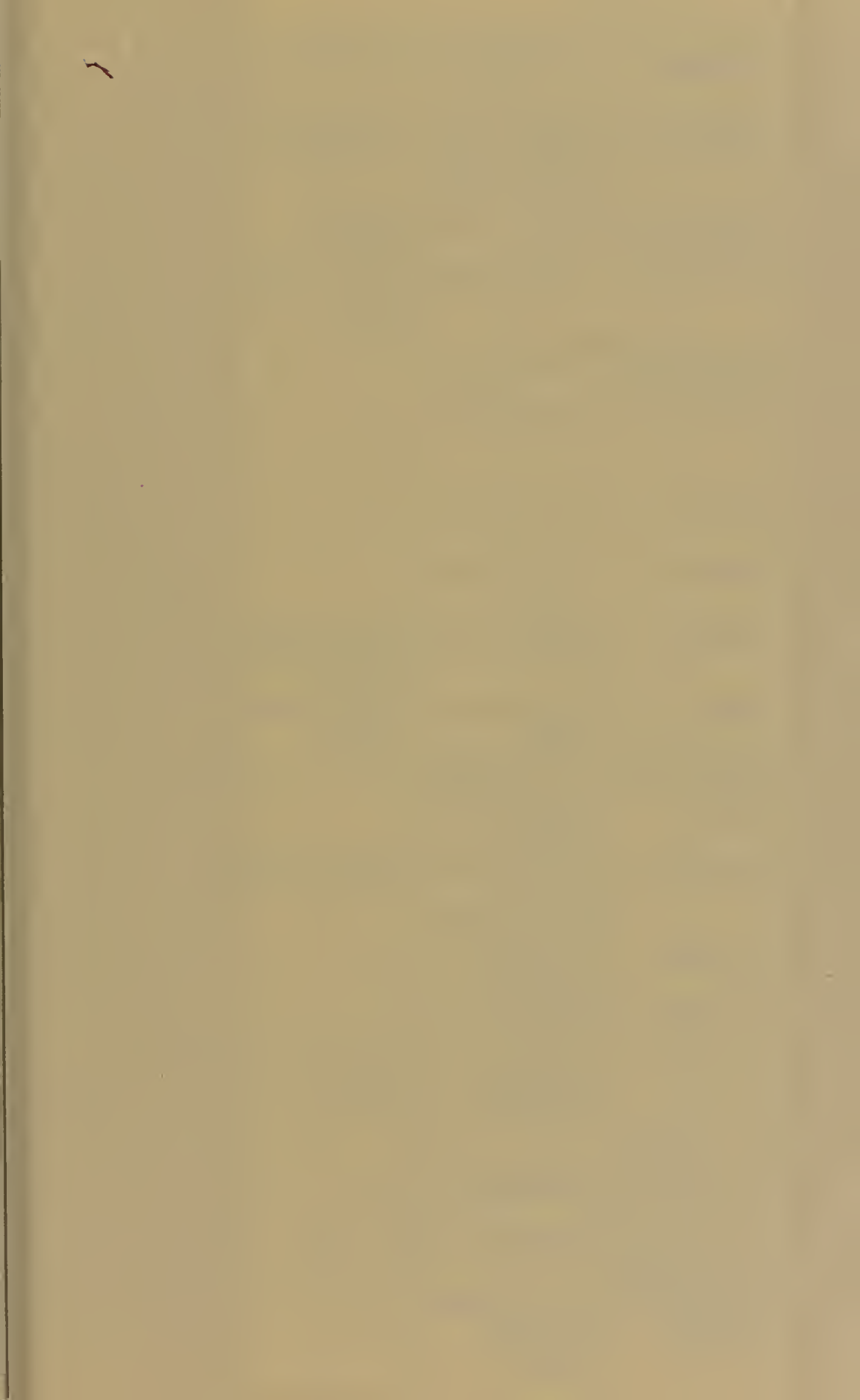
ANALYSES OF SEWAGE AND SEWAGE EFFLUENTS.

No. of Samples taken — 36.

Extract from Reports on Samples :—

	Description of Sample.	Organic Suspended Matter.	Organic Ammonia.	Putrescibility.	Dissolved Oxygen Consumed.	Nitrogen as Nitrates.	Remarks.
Ynismeudw	{ Crude Sewage Effluent	Moderate Small Amount	.50	Nil	5.40	.55	Moderate
Godre'rgraig	{ Crude Sewage Effluent	Considerable Trace Only	.50	.04	4.50	.80	Moderate
Trebanos	{ Crude Sewage Effluent	Considerable Small	.23	Nil	3.8	1.40	Good
Pontardawe	{ Crude Sewage Effluent	Large Fair	.56	.86	17.5	Nil	Unsatisfactory
Clydach	{ Crude Sewage Effluent	Large Fair	.46	.30	12.4	2.00	Unsatisfactory

1. Chemical analyses of effluents from Trebanos sewage purification works gave results showing efficient or fairly efficient purification.
2. The effluents from Ynismeudw and Godre'rgraig were classified as moderate but showed inefficient oxidation.
3. Clydach and Pontardawe were distinctly unsatisfactory in chemical and physical characters.



SCHOOLS.

Name of School.	Type.	Accommodation	No. on Register.	No. in 1928.	Water Supply.	Heating.	Cloak Rooms.	Last Painted.	Washing Facilities.	Closet Accommodation.	Remarks.
Rhydyfro	Mixed Infants	176	92	117	Mains	Open Fires	2	1933	4 wash-ups in each cloak room	2 buckets and urinals — Boys ; 2 buckets—Girls	No facilities for drying clothes.
Cwmgorse	Junior Mixed	240	109	189	Mains	Central and Fires	2	1935	4 wash-ups in each cloak room	7 water carriages	No drying facilities.
Gwaun-Cae-Gurwen	Junior Mixed	300	183	380	Mains	Open Fires	2 (small)	1930	3 wash basins	6 water carriages	Dirty and unfit. New school being built.
	Senior Mixed	320	216	255	Mains	Central	2 (large)	1936	8 wash-basins in each cloak room	Water carriages	
Tai'rgwaith	Junior Mixed	150	85	138	Mains	Open Fires	3	1936	2 wash-basins	Water carriages	
	Infants	130		169							
Banwen	Infants	150	43	109	Mains	Open Fires	1	1935	3 wash-basins	Water carriages	
	Junior Mixed	310	89	291	Mains	Open Fires	1	1934	3 wash-basins	Water carriages	
Trebanos	Infants	200	107	130	Mains	Central	2	1934	4 wash-basins	6 water closets and urinals	No drinking cups. Drinking fountain suggested.
	Mixed	368	227	246	Mains	Central	2	1934	8 basins—Boys 8 basins—Girls	4 W.C.'s—Boys- & Urinals 4 W.C.'s—Girls	Drinking fountain suggested.
Rhos	Mixed and Infants	200	108	174	Mains	Open Fires	2	1935	4 basins in each cloak room	Pails—5 Boys, 5 Girls Urinal draining to cesspool	
Velindre	Mixed	118	83	103	Mains	Central and Fires	3	1936	6 wash-basins	Water Closets : Cesspool. Boys 3 ; Girls 3	School fairly clean.
Craigcefnparc	Junior Mixed	102	81	93	Mains	Open Fires	3		Wash-basins	Earth bucket 2 Urinals	
	Infants Mixed	100	52	47	Mains	Open Fires	1		2 wash-basins	Earth closets 2 Urinals	
Wern	Infants	340	170	237	Mains	Central and Fires	1		6 wash-basins	7 Water Closets and Urinals	Another Closet out of order.
	Boys	270	165		Mains	Central	1 (large)		6 wash-basins		
	Girls	270	170	254	Mains	Central	1 (large)		8 wash-basins	Water Closets	
Pantteg	Mixed	194	156		Mains	Central	2 (small)		3 wash-basins in each cloak room	Water Closets	Very dirty.
Alltwen	Mixed	330	299	425	Mains		2		7 wash-basins— 3 for Boys 4 for Girls	10 Water Closets— 6 for Girls 4 for Boys. Urinals	

4. The work of disinfection is carried out by the Local Authority.
5. Householders are advised to maintain a good standard of cleanliness.

Periodical examinations are carried out by the Rent Collectors and Sanitary Inspector.

SCHOOLS.

PONTARDAWE.

1. Rhos School—Mixed and Infants.
2. Alltwen Mixed School.
3. Trebanos School—Mixed and Infants.
4. Trebanos Manual and Cookery School.
5. Rhydyfro School—Mixed and Infants.
6. Alltwen Infants' School.
7. Ynismeudw Infants' School.
8. Ynismeudw Girls' School.
9. Pontardawe Boys' School.
10. Pontardawe Secondary School.
11. Pontardawe Infants' School.

CLYDACH.

12. Craigcefnparc School—Mixed and Infants.
13. Clydach Senior School.
14. Clydach School—Mixed and Infants.

YSTALYFERA.

15. Ystalyfera County School.
16. Wern School—Mixed and Infants.
17. Pantteg School—Mixed and Infants.

GODRE'RGRAIG.

18. Godre'rgraig School—Mixed and Infants.

GWAUN-CAE-GURWEN.

19. Gwaun-Cae-Gurwen Senior School.
20. Gwaun-Cae-Gurwen School—Mixed and Infants.
21. Cwmgorse School—Mixed and Infants.
22. Tai'rgwaith School—Mixed and Infants.
23. Banwen Schools—Mixed and Infants.
24. Cwnllynfell Schools—Mixed and Infants.
25. Rhiwfawr Schools—Mixed and Infants.
26. Garnswllt, Ammanford—Mixed and Infants.
27. Velindre School—Mixed and Infants.

SECTION E.—INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.**(a) MILK SUPPLY.**

Accredited 4 (i) William Thomas, Tyllwyndyn Farm,
Craigcefnparc, Clydach.

(ii) David Evans, Neuadd Farm, Garnant.

(iii) Thomas Dixon, Alltycham, Pontardawe.

(iv) William A. Griffiths, Ynistawelog,
Pantyyffynnon.

Ungraded Supply, 148.

The number of Farms supplying Milk in this District is as follows :—

Clydach	.....	5
Glais	.....	4
Craigcefnparc	.....	12
Velindre	.....	8
Salem	.....	2
Garnswllt	.....	2
Trebanos	.....	7
Pontardawe	.....	10
Rhydyfro	.....	12
Alltwen	.....	20
Rhos	.....	7
Cilybebyll	.....	3
Godre'rgraig	.....	9
Ystalyfera	.....	9
Cwmtwrch	.....	3
Rhiwfawr	.....	16
Cwmlllynfell	.....	1
Gwaun-Cae-Gurwen	.....	7
Brynamman	.....	2
Cwmgorse	.....	7
Tai'rgwaith	.....	2
Total	.....	148

No. of Farms outside the area supplying milk in the area—19.

Dealers. In addition to the above there are 26 dealers.

Milk Samples. Frequent samples were taken :—

	<i>No. of Samples Taken.</i>	<i>Satis- factory.</i>	<i>Unsatis- factory.</i>
(1) Bacteriological and Chemical	98	68	30
(2) Chemical only	22	16	6
(3) Samples of Pasteurised	1	1	—
(4) Tubercle Bacilli Absent	6	6	—

Milk and Farms. During the year ended 31st December, 1938, 127 samples of milk were taken in the area by the Sanitary Inspector ; most of these were sent to Cardiff, but a considerable number were tested in the Office. Of the number taken, 36 were found to be unsatisfactory. As I consider the proportion of unsatisfactory results much too high, I propose making every effort in the coming year to bring about a cleaner and therefore a healthier milk supply in our area. It is hardly necessary for me to state that unclean milk is a great source of danger to any community. It has been known to commence epidemics resulting in great loss of life. We have a special responsibility in this matter as we supply free milk to our Clinic children through our Child Welfare Scheme. At present there are 308 children receiving free milk under this scheme ; and not until we have done everything we can to improve the milk supplied to these children can we be satisfied that it is fulfilling the purpose for which it is intended. In the present circumstances it might well be that instead of helping these children to grow up healthy and strong, the milk may be sowing the seeds of dreaded diseases.

Ice Cream. Eleven samples were taken :—

Satisfactory	5
Fairly Satisfactory	4
Unsatisfactory with high bacterial content	2

The premises where the unsatisfactory samples were produced were examined and various defects found. The producers were informed that if the next samples were unsatisfactory production would have to be stopped. The warning had the desired effect.

(b) **MEAT AND OTHER FOODS.** See Sanitary Inspector's Report.

(c) ADULTERATION Etc.

I am indebted to Superintendent Williams of Gowerton for the following report of samples taken within the Pontardawe Rural District Council Area under the Food and Drugs Act for the year ending 31st December, 1938.

The following samples were taken and forwarded to the County Analyst for analysis :

	<i>No. of Samples.</i>
New Milk	27
Butter	2
Margarine	2
Lard	1
Cream	1
Vinegar	1
Beef Dripping	1
Custard Powder	1
Pepper	1
Marmalade	1
Total	38

The Public Analyst certified 32 samples as genuine ; and the following shows the result of proceedings in respect of the remaining 6 samples :

(i) Milk deficient in milk fat—6.

Two of these showed water added.

(ii) Bacteriological Examination of Milk—

8 samples were sent and 7 were found to be within normal limits and free from Tubercle Bacilli.

One was unsatisfactory.

(d) CHEMICAL AND BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION OF FOOD.

This work is done at the Cardiff and County Laboratories.

(e) NUTRITION.

Advice on this subject is given at the Infant Welfare Clinics.

(f) SHELL FISH (MOLLUSCUN).

Does not apply.

SECTION F.—PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

1938 was notable for the prevalence of Scarlet Fever which was fairly general throughout the District. On the whole it was of a very mild nature beginning with a sore throat and followed by a rash. The fever cleared up in about fourteen days and, due to its mild nature, it was thought advisable to shorten the duration of hospital treatment from six to four weeks. Personally, I do not think that isolation treatment curtails the epidemic.

Towards the end of the year I thought it advisable to issue Scarletina Antitoxin for the more severe cases.

There is no provision for the admission of measles or whooping cough, but if the Diphtheria Immunization succeeds in preventing outbreaks of this disease it is hoped in future to utilise the beds for severe cases of whooping cough and measles.

Due to the generosity of Lord Nuffield we are to be provided with an Iron Lung. This will be of great use if the need arises in cases of Infantile Paralysis.

No. of Cases Admitted to Isolation Hospital.

			<i>Scarlet Fever.</i>	<i>Diphtheria.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
1938	.....	.....	130	76	206
1937	.....	.....	70	20	90
1936	.....	.....	24	20	44
1935	.....	.....	51	18	69
1934	.....	.....	77	22	99
1933	.....	.....	22	12	34
1932	.....	.....	39	26	65
1931	.....	.....	19	47	66
1930	16	83	99
1929	20	88	108

No. of Cases Admitted to Small Pox Hospital.

1931	4
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Diphtheria, and Diphtheria Immunization.

Detailed and accurate descriptions of Diphtheria are given by various Spanish physicians who studied the disease during the terrible epidemics of morbus suffocans that swept Spain during the 16th and 17th centuries.

P. P. Bretonneau, of Tours, recognizing the specific character of the exudate in the affected part, coined the term "Diphtherite" from the Greek word meaning a "membrane." The subsequent alteration in 1835 to Diphtherie is variously ascribed to Bretonneau or his pupil Trousseau.

It was as recently as 1861 that Diphtheria was differentiated from Scarlet Fever in the Returns of the Registrar General.

The specific organism first described by Klebs in 1875 was cultivated by Loeffler in 1884. Rouse and Gissen were the first to prepare diphtheria toxin. The practical value of serum therapy, due initially to the discovery of diphtheria antitoxin by Behring in 1890, many ascribe to Rouse. Antitoxin serum was first employed in England in the treatment of Diphtheria in 1894.

The disease occurs at all ages, but its main incidence is childhood. Owing to a transmitted immunity Diphtheria is rare in the first six months of life. In this country the disease is more prevalent in the autumn and winter months. The most important cause of spread of the disease is the human carrier. In the majority of cases the bacillus lurks in the throat or nose. Coughing, sneezing, kissing or speaking results in the dissemination of the bacillus by droplet infection. Less frequently articles which have been contaminated with secretion from the nose or mouth may transmit the disease. The old theory that faulty drains give rise to diphtheretic infection dies hard.

The only effective method of stamping out Diphtheria is by actively immunizing the susceptible members of the community against the disease. Two injections of diphtheria prophylactic A.P.T. for ages 1—10, and T.A.F. for children over 10, at fourteen-day intervals will render the majority of susceptible individuals immune to Diphtheria within three months. The method is absolutely safe. A child should be immunized early in the second year.

To no disease may the aphorism "Prevention is better than cure" be more aptly applied than in the case of Diphtheria.

To secure a proper perspective of the situation with regard to diphtheria immunization it is best to compare mortality figures for this disease with those of maternal mortality.

In 1936, in England and Wales there were 3,081 deaths from diphtheria, or 53 per 1,000 cases; there were 2,301 deaths in childbirth, or 38 per 1,000 cases.

The maternal mortality rate is only very slowly falling through causes not well understood, in spite of all the work being done ; on the other hand it is known that deaths from diphtheria can be prevented by immunization.

In New York State where prevention is carried out on a large scale, approximately 750,000 children were immunized between 1925 and 1930. Notified cases fell from 4,370 to 1,613 per annum. All deaths were among the non-immunized, so that though some immunized children contracted the disease, none died. The result has been a proportionate decrease in the diphtheria rate, as striking as that which followed the introduction of antitoxin forty years ago.

**Immunization of Clinic Children
up to 31st December, 1938.**

<i>Clinic.</i>	<i>Completed.</i>	<i>First Injection.</i>
Pontardawe	131	49
Gwaun-Cac-Gurwen	88	9
Ystalyfera	17	19
Clydach	13	11
Cwmllynfell	23	6
Godre'rgraig	18	10
Total	290	104

**Immunization of School Children
up to 31st December, 1938.**

<i>School.</i>	<i>Completed.</i>	<i>First Injection.</i>
Gwaun-Cae-Gurwen Junior	129	10
Banwen	81	3
Banwen Infants	29	2
Tai'rgwaith	42	19
Gwaun-Cac-Gurwen Senior	103	22
Cwmgorse	66	13
Rhydyfro	82	4
Cwmllynfell	132	14
Rhiwfawr	32	14
Wern Infants		94
Wern Girls		140
Wern Boys		131
Pantteg Mixed		111
Pantteg Infants		48
Godre'rgraig Mixed		123
Godre'rgraig Infants		14
Ynismudw Infants		21

Immunization of Children (*continued*).

<i>School.</i>	<i>Completed.</i>	<i>First Injection.</i>
Pontardawe Girls	105
Pontardawe Boys	121
Pontardawe Infants	38
Craigcefnparc Infants	25
Craigcefnparc Mixed	53
Rhos Mixed	84
Alltwen Infants	68
Alltwen Mixed	246
Velindre	71
Garnswllt	49
Total	696	1,643

Infantile Paralysis.

During the latter part of the year we had four cases of Infantile Paralysis with one fatal result.

On investigation there was no connection between the cases to suggest any form of spread. There was no common source of infection, neither did any of them attend the same day or Sunday School; neither was there a common milk supply.

Measures were taken by the Sanitary Inspector to disinfect thoroughly the houses, and all bedding was destroyed. There were no other cases in the same houses.

As these cases required special care and orthopaedic treatment we were very fortunate in being able to admit three of the cases to the Swansea Isolation Hospital. I desire here to express my gratitude to Dr. Thomas Evans, Medical Officer of Health of Swansea, for his willingness in admitting the cases to Swansea.

Two of the cases have been discharged and are progressing favourably.

The fatal case developed paralysis of the respiratory muscles and was in urgent need of an artificial respiration apparatus. Unfortunately, the Swansea Isolation Iron Lung had been sent to Cardiff, and the only available one was at Merthyr Isolation Hospital. The Medical Officer of Health of Merthyr very kindly admitted the case and everything possible was done, but the child died in two days.

Early hospitalization is of the greatest value both as a means of prevention of spread of an epidemic, also as a prevention of the deformities which the paralysis might produce.

LIST OF NOTIFIABLE DISEASES DURING THE YEAR 1938.

Disease.	Total.	Cly- dach.	Pontar- dawe.	Ystaly- fera.	G.C.G.	Deaths.	Admit- ted to Hos- pital.
Scarlet Fever	185	104	34	13	34	—	130
Diphtheria	94	9	10	14	61	4	76
Op. Neon.	2	—	1	—	1	—	—
Erysipelas	11	4	2	2	3	—	—
Infantile Paralysis	4	—	3	1	—	1	4
Puer. Pyrexia	4	—	4	—	—	—	—
Influenzal Pneumonia	39	7	11	18	3	—	—
Total	339	124	65	48	102	5	210

Of the 210 cases admitted to hospital, 206 were admitted to Gellynudd Isolation ; 3 were admitted to Swansea Isolation Hospital ; and 1 was admitted to Merthyr Isolation Hospital.

LIST OF SCARLET FEVER CASES NOTIFIED DURING 1938.

Age Groups.	Sex.	Clydach.	Pontar- dawe.	Ystaly- fera.	G. C. G.
0— 1	M	2	1	—	—
	F	—	—	—	—
1— 2	M	1	2	—	1
	F	—	—	—	1
2— 3	M	4	1	—	1
	F	3	—	—	1
3— 4	M	6	2	1	—
	F	3	2	2	2
4— 5	M	9	2	—	1
	F	4	3	1	1
5—10	M	19	4	4	4
	F	24	7	4	8
10—15	M	8	4	1	6
	F	8	4	—	4
15—25	M	3	—	—	2
	F	5	2	—	1
25—35	M	—	—	—	—
	F	2	—	—	1
35—65	M	1	—	—	—
	F	2	—	—	—
65 and over	M	—	—	—	—
	F	—	—	—	—
Total		104	34	13	34

Males 90
 Females 95

Total **185**

LIST OF DIPHTHERIA CASES NOTIFIED DURING 1938.

Age Groups.	Sex.	Clydach.	Pontar-dawe.	Ystaly-fera.	G. C. G.
0—1	M	1	—	—	—
	F	—	—	—	—
1—2	M	—	—	—	1
	F	—	—	—	—
2—3	M	—	—	1	2
	F	—	1	1	—
3—4	M	—	—	1	1
	F	1	—	1	2
4—5	M	1	1	—	3
	F	1	—	—	4
5—10	M	1	3	2	11
	F	2	1	3	8
10—15	M	1	3	1	9
	F	1	—	3	11
15—25	M	—	—	—	3
	F	—	—	—	6
25—35	M	—	—	—	—
	F	—	1	—	—
35—65	M	—	—	—	—
	F	—	—	—	—
65 and over	M	—	—	—	—
	F	—	—	1	—
Total		9	10	14	61

Males 46

Females 48

Total 94

During the outbreak at Gwaun-Cae-Gurwen a great number of cases came from the Senior School. It was therefore thought advisable to look for carriers in the school. The Public Health Department consequently swabbed the whole Senior School, and were fortunate in finding two carriers.

(a) **Prevention of Blindness.**

No action taken.

(b) **Tuberculosis.**

P.H.—Prevention of Tuberculosis Regs. 1925. No action needed.

P.H. Act 1936, Sect. 172. No action needed.

Tuberculosis figures show a steady decrease during the last half century.

In his Annual Report, the Chief Medical Officer of the Ministry of Health has emphasized after-care of Tuberculosis. He states—"A man with arrested Tuberculosis is a damaged life. He needs care and medical supervision for a long time, especially during the critical five years following arrest of the disease. Put such a man into competition with healthy labour in the open market and more often than not he breaks down under the strain, his old disease flares up, and his last stage is worse than the first. It is this sociological factor that has vitiated so frequently the successful results of sanatorium hospital treatment."

Overcrowding also plays an important part and it has been found that 50 per cent. of those notified lived in overcrowded houses, the most important factor being overcrowding in the bedroom of the patient.

Malnutrition was present in 20 per cent. of the cases reported.

The principal aims of an after-care committee should be :

(1) Rehousing of families containing a tuberculous member. This is a further effort in the direction of prevention of the spread of infection. Here the principle is isolation of the patient within the family, and the provision of a healthy environment which will be beneficial both to the family and the patient.

(2) To see to the provision of playing fields and facilities for open air recreation.

(3) To prevent any cases of Malnutrition by the provision of and instruction as to suitable food.

(4) To find remunerative work for a large number of tuberculous patients who are unable to return to their former occupation.

It is well known that due to enforced idleness patients have not maintained the benefit derived from sanatorium treatment, and it is important to discuss how this can be counteracted.

This after-care problem also applies to the Silicosis cases, and early cases of Silicosis should be removed from the collieries and other suitable work found.

**NUMBER OF CASES ON TUBERCULOSIS REGISTER
31st DECEMBER, 1938.**

	Population.	Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.		Totals.	No. of Cases per 1,000 Pop-ulation.
		M.	F.	M.	F.		
Clydach	6,971	20	20	6	3	49	7.2
Craigcefnparc	1,246	2	3	1	4	10	8.0
Pontardawe	4,892	36	21	8	2	67	14.0
Alltwen	3,341	10	11	8	4	33	9.8
Trebanos	2,516	6	6	2	1	15	5.9
Gwaun-Cae-Gurwen	3,819	12	6	2	1	21	5.5
Cwmgorse	1,618	6	1	1	—	8	4.9
Rhiwfawr	424	7	2	2	—	11	25.8
Cwmllynfell	1,460	5	—	1	2	8	5.8
Brynamman	1,576	4	4	—	—	8	5.8
Cwmtwrch	392	4	1	1	—	6	15.1
Ystalyfera	5,260	13	13	4	1	31	5.9
Godre'rgraig	1,980	7	3	3	—	13	6.8
Garnswllt	413	1	1	—	—	2	4.8
		133	92	39	18	282	9.2

Tuberculosis—All Forms : Male 172

Female 110

Pulmonary Tuberculosis : Male 133

Female 92

Non-Pulmonary : Male 39

Female 18

The surprising fact in regard to Tuberculosis in this area is that it attacks the male far more than the female.

For the number per 1,000 of population, Rhiwfawr is by far the highest in the district.

TUBERCULOSIS.

AGES.	NEW CASES.				DEATHS.			
	Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.		Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0—1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1—5	—	1	2	—	—	—	1	—
5—15	2	1	1	1	—	—	—	—
15—25	7	4	1	2	2	6	1	—
25—35	5	9	—	1	7	5	1	—
35—45	3	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
45—55	3	—	2	—	—	—	—	—
55—65	3	—	—	—	3	—	—	—
65—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals	23	15	6	4	12	12	3	—

During the year there were 26 deaths from Tuberculosis. One of these deaths was due to Tuberculosis Meningitis and was not diagnosed until admitted to hospital. Three deaths occurred outside our area. Sixteen of the deaths were notified, and six, a ratio of 1 to 5, were not notified to me during life. All cases of non-notification have been investigated and there is no evidence of wilful neglect or refusal to notify.

There is no evidence of excessive incidence of, or mortality from, Tuberculosis in any particular occupation.

All Tuberculous cases are visited by our Health Visitors after receipt of notification, and advice is given as to what precautions to take for preventing the spread of infection. The patients are also informed of the free facilities available at the Tuberculosis Institute.

The Council is making every effort to re-house Tuberculous cases who now live in overcrowded homes.

Two chalets are at present on loan at the homes of Tuberculous cases.

Disinfectant is supplied by the Sanitary Inspector to patients on the recommendation of the Health Visitors. Disinfection of rooms and clothing is carried out after death or removal of the patient to an institution. Special reports, obtained from the Health Visitors, are sent on all new cases notified to the Tuberculosis Officer.

TUBERCULOSIS DEATHS.

Year.	Males.	Females.	Total.	Rate per 1,000 for England and Wales.	Rate per 1,000 for Own Area.	Clydach.	Pontardawe.	Ystalyfera.	G. C. G.
1912	—	—	31	1.361	.88	9	9	3	10
1913	—	—	28	1.345	.82	8	10	6	4
1915	—	—	29	1.440	.84	7	5	8	9
1916	—	—	31	1.423	.88	7	12	5	7
1917	—	—	40	1.479	1.20	10	13	7	10
1918	—	—	39	1.449	1.10	11	12	16	—
1919	—	—	30	1.539	.85	9	12	5	4
1920	—	—	33	1.229	.95	6	15	6	6
1921	—	—	24	1.123	.70	4	9	5	6
1922	—	—	28	1.117	.84	2	10	5	11
1923	—	—	27	1.107	.75	4	15	5	3
1924	—	—	28	1.049	.82	5	12	3	8
1925	—	—	30	1.039	.85	4	19	4	3
1926	12	22	34	1.017	.96	9	10	10	5
1927	14	24	38	.942	1.07	8	11	10	9
1928	13	10	23	.951	.68	2	12	4	5
1929	17	12	29	.908	.84	4	10	10	5
1930	19	17	36	.932	1.03	9	15	8	4
1931	19	10	29	.872	.84	6	8	9	6
1932	14	14	28	.869	.28	3	12	6	7
1933	9	16	25	.815	.72	4	10	8	3
1934	8	15	23	.799	.68	7	8	6	2
1935	14	10	24	.704	.70	6	9	5	4
1936	19	10	29	.687	.84	7	9	8	5
1937	15	20	35	.657	.97	4	13	12	6
1938	15	12	27		.75	5	14	3	5

NUMBER OF CHILDREN VACCINATED IN THE AREA
DURING 1938.

Month.	No. of Children.
January	11
February	7
March	26
April	13
May	12
June	30
July	7
August	13
September	17
October	10
November	6
December	11
Total	163

CANCER.

A second reading of the Cancer Bill was given in the House of Commons on the 12th December, 1938.

Sir Walter Elliott, in moving the second reading, stated that no one could deny the urgent necessity for some means of bringing adequate facilities for the treatment of cancer.

For any form of treatment to be successful it must be employed when the disease is in an early stage, and it is essential therefore that people should seek early treatment, and there should be ample facilities for early diagnosis and adequate treatment.

Cancer is now second in the list of fatal diseases in this country and has taken the place of tuberculosis.

The total number of deaths for 1937 was 74,000, which represented 17% of all deaths during the working years, that is, 15 to 65. 10,000 deaths occurred under the age of 50 when working or business capacity was at its fullest and when heads of families were most necessary to their children.

The annual death rate, per million population, for cancer for 1901 was 835; for 1937 it was 1,624, which is double that for 1901. The general opinion for this great increase is increased longevity and more accurate diagnosis.

The long waiting lists at most voluntary hospitals has two consequences of great importance to the cancer patient. Firstly there may be delay in initiating treatment; and secondly, few voluntary hospitals are able to afford bed accommodation for those patients who are beyond hope of cure and whose sufferings cannot be alleviated by modern treatment.

There is another cause of delay. Many cancer patients apply for treatment only at a stage when treatment is no longer possible. For many diseases delay in seeking medical advice is dangerous; for cancer it is deadly.

The first thing to be said on the subject of cancer is—

Do not be afraid of it.

Statistics show that there are many more cases of cancer now than formerly, and many more deaths from it, yet we say—

Do not fear it.

The cause of cancer is unknown. Cancer has been attributed to many causes but when these have been investigated they have failed to fulfill the conditions required. It is commonly believed that cancer is hereditary. There is no satisfactory reason for believing this to be so. Very often individuals live in a perfect dread of the disease because a parent has suffered from it. There is no satisfactory evidence that cancer is a result of the absence, presence or excess of any particular constituent of the diet. Likewise, the suggestion that the disease is infectious is not supported by adequate evidence. One certain fact about cancer is that it frequently follows on chronic and prolonged irritation. As examples of this chronic irritation may be cited sores produced by broken or jagged teeth (or tooth plates) or by smoking a pipe with a rough or hot stem.

Warning Signs. The occurrence of any persistent swelling or lump, particularly in the breast, requires investigation and treatment. Do not neglect them because they are painless. Most cancers ARE painless in the early stages.

Persistent indigestion.

Chronic constipation, Diarrhoea.

Piles should never be neglected.

The passage of blood in the urine may be a warning of importance.

Bleeding or discharge (from unwonted parts of the body) especially in women.

Stages. Cancer, if untreated, is a steadily progressive disease, the earliest stage of which may be a chronic inflammation. At its commencement the disease is generally localised to a definite area from which extension, which may be rapid, takes place. Therefore the earlier appropriate treatment is undertaken, the better the prospect of cure.

In its later stages, when considerable extension has taken place, possibility of cure is remote. Experience shows that in a considerable proportion of instances patients delay seeking medical advice, although aware perhaps for years of an abnormality, until all prospect of cure has vanished. All the doctor can do then is to alleviate the pain, which now probably accompanies the growth of the tumour.

Treatment. This must be left in the hands of the trained surgeon. In some cases radiological treatment may be advisable, in others extirpation by operation is indicated, but the sufferer must rely on the expert to decide. The great thing is to give him a fair chance of success by going to him early.

Periodical Medical Examination. If everyone underwent a thorough medical examination once a year there can be no question but that the *mortality from cancer would be greatly diminished*, because warning signs would be discovered and measures taken to ward off the threat. Where it was too late to ward the disease off and it was already established, its severity could be modified because it would be discovered earlier, and for the same reason it could be more frequently cured.

Avoid anything giving rise to chronic irritation.

Do not neglect any chronic inflammation, however trifling—SEE YOUR DOCTOR.

Be thoroughly overhauled once a year and give the doctor a chance of discovering some warning sign.

Do not fear the disease, but fight it early.

GIVE THE SURGEON A FAIR CHANCE.

CANCER.

Total	Sex	Site	Age Groups		Cly- dach.	Pontar- dawe.	Ystaly- fera.	G.C.G.
			25-45	45-				
1	F.	Cervix	1	—	—	1	—	—
1	F.	Breast	—	1	—	1	—	—
3	M.	Colon	—	3	1	—	—	2
4	F.	Colon	—	4	2	—	1	1
1	M.	Pylorus	—	1	—	—	—	1
3	M.	Prostate	—	3	—	—	3	—
2	F.	Bladder	—	2	1	1	—	—
10	M.	Stomach	—	10	—	5	1	4
6	F.	Stomach	—	6	—	2	1	3
3	M.	Bronchial	—	3	2	—	1	—
1	M.	Penis	—	1	—	1	—	—
1	M.	Tongue	—	1	—	—	—	1
1	M.	Rodent Ulcer	—	1	—	1	—	—
1	F.	Thyroid	—	1	—	1	—	—
2	M.	Nasal	—	2	2	—	—	—
1	F.	Oesophagus	1	—	—	1	—	—
6	F.	Rectum	1	5	1	—	3	2
1	F.	Ovary	—	1	—	1	—	—
1	M.	Lip	—	1	1	—	—	—
1	F.	Sarcoma	—	1	1	—	—	—
50			3	47	11	15	10	14

Males — 26

Females— 24

Rate per 1,000 population
for Districts

1.30

1.37

1.33

1.60

Rate per 1,000 for Pontardawe R.D.C. —

1.43

Rate per 1,000 for England & Wales —

CANCER DEATHS.

Year.	Rate per 1,000.	Total.	Rate per 1,000 for England and Wales.	Clydach	Pontar- dawe.	Ystaly- fera.	G.C.G.
1912	.65	23	.893	4	9	6	4
1913	.78	28	.909	5	8	10	5
1914			.925				
1915	.54	19	.948	5	8	4	2
1916	.83	29	.943	3	11	8	7
1917	.78	28	.933	3	13	9	3
1918	.90	32	.935	10	9	5	8
1919	.74	26	.930	6	10	5	5
1920	.65	23	.913	5	8	6	4
1921	.74	26	.915	3	10	6	7
1922	.60	21	.928	2	8	5	6
1923	.96	34	.957	7	10	9	8
1924	.90	32	.985	8	11	9	4
1925	1.07	38	.997	6	15	10	7
1926	.78	28	.993	9	6	8	5
1927	1.02	36	.987	9	12	9	6
1928	1.16	42	1.000	9	12	17	4
1929	.96	34	1.000	10	12	7	5
1930	1.37	49	.993	5	23	12	9
1931	1.16	42	.998	10	13	13	6
1932	1.19	43	1.001	12	10	13	8
1933	1.58	57	.997	21	17	4	15
1934	1.25	45	1.003	10	14	9	12
1935	1.07	38	1.001	10	12	6	10
1936	1.27	46	1.010	9	21	4	12
1937	1.30	55	.969	17	22	8	8
1938	1.53	52		12	16	10	14

SILICOSIS.

The control of dust which causes the disease known as Silicosis is a problem which has agitated the minds of leading scientists throughout the work for many years. In recent years, after careful research, these men have been able to make recommendations which, even though they do not prevent Silicosis, are able to reduce its incidence considerably.

Although men employed in quarrying stone and granite or making asbestos are subject to this disease, it is those men employed in coal-mining and all metalliferous mine-working who are the greatest sufferers. From statistics given below it will be seen that a considerable number of the mine-workers of our area are suffering from Silicosis.

I believe it correct to say that of all the perils which our mine-workers have to face, nothing causes them so much uneasiness of mind as the fear of contracting this dreadful

disease. The knowledge that this is an additional danger to an occupation which in itself is hard and dangerous must affect considerably the peace of mind of a body of men, even though they are courageous to a high degree. I am sure it is the earnest wish of all men that the investigation now being made in our area by the Medical Research Council will prove immensely beneficial to the unfortunate victims of Silicosis.

There are two distinct types of Silicosis in coal mine workers: The first occurs to tunnellers who have drilled through beds of sandstone or quartzite rock and who from the nature of their occupation do not come into contact with coal dust except going to and from their working places in the mine. This type is indistinguishable from the silicosis of stonemasons except that the onset is more acute. In this type there is a very definite liability to tuberculosis. The second type is the hard black lung—the true silico-anthracosis—in which large masses of consolidation are found. These masses may have the consistence of hard black rubber. This type develops very slowly over a period of 20 to 30 years and does not seem to render the patient liable to tuberculosis infection. The condition is due to working in combined silica and coal dust and depends apparently upon—

- (a) The amount of dust inhaled.
- (b) The percentage of free silica contained therein.
- (c) The size-frequency (or fineness) of the particles inhaled.
- (d) The nature and sort of such other substances including vapours and gases as may be inhaled simultaneously or otherwise.
- (e) The powers of resistance of the individual concerned.
- (f) The presence or absence of a complication by an infective process.

Silicosis can be contracted through inhaling for a sufficient period dust containing percentages varying from say 95% down to from 30% to 35% and even lower. The greatest amount of harm is done by particles of less than say 3 microns in size.

The processes underground in a coal mine which may involve exposure to silica dust are:

- (1) Ripping: taking down the roof or top of the roadway to make height.
- (2) Brushing: Ripping or blasting of the roof and the using of debris for building store packs.
- (3) Driving a hard heading: a drift, tunnel or roadway, driving in rock or through hard measures.
- (4) Driving a cross measures drift: driving a roadway in such a direction as is necessary to form a travelling road from stratum to stratum.

The incidence of silicosis has been remarkably lessened in the South African mines by strict attention to the details of dust prevention. Adequate ventilation should be provided in all working places. Dust should be controlled at its point of generation by exhaust ventilating, wet or foam drilling, and the use of water in any process which gives rise to dust, e.g., wetting the rock before loading, and the application of dust traps to drill. In dead ends and tunnels, and in fact all drilling operations, a further protection is found in the use of efficient masks. Workmen do not take kindly to respirators but there are now several on the market which are not uncomfortable to wear.

Most important also is that the men should undergo a careful examination before commencing an occupation where there is a silica hazard. The mouth-breather, those subject to bronchitis or asthma, or those who have had repeated attacks of pneumonia, and men who have healed or active tuberculosis should not be engaged.

Period of Exposure to Dust.

What is the prospect of a man exposed to free silica dust ? This depends on—

The nature, silica-content, size of particles and concentration of the particular dust to which he is exposed.

The length of service necessary to acquire silicosis may be considerably prolonged by improvement in other factors, such as :—

- (a) Intermittence in exposure. On this point evidence forthcoming is not conclusive.
- (b) Age of worker. There is no evidence that age plays any important part.
- (c) Physique of worker. This is a factor of primary importance.
- (d) Race. There is no evidence that this is a matter of importance.

Periodical examination of the workmen is essential, and the effectiveness of the preventive measures should be checked by frequent dust counts.

What is the prospect in a case of silicosis if the affected man leaves the industry at the first stage of the disease ?

The evidence on this point from various sources is somewhat conflicting. In South Africa, on the whole, the evidence shows that the downward progress of the disease is in most cases not arrested on leaving the industry ; but evidence gathered in some other countries leads to a different conclusion.

What is the prospect in a case of silicosis with tuberculosis ? This is always serious. It is worse—

- (a) When the tubercular infection occurs at the outset of silicosis.
- (b) In younger than in older subjects.
- (c) Than in cases of tuberculosis alone.

After-Care.

- (1) Sanatorium treatment should be provided for suitable cases.
- (2) Hitherto most of the rehabilitation schemes have been unsuccessful. Further investigation into this problem is urgently called for.
- (3) Suitable light employment should be found for all early cases of this disease.

For the following statistics I must acknowledge my thanks to Mr. James Griffiths, M.P.

Between the 1st June, 1931, and the 31st December, 1937, 705 anthracite workers were certified disabled by silicosis, and 147 deaths occurred as compared with a total of 709 disablements and 170 deaths in the rest of the British coalfields.

Although the anthracite coalfield in output and personnel only represents one-fortieth of the coalfields, it has one-half of the certified cases of silicosis.

Particulars supplied to Mr. James Griffiths by Mr. Geoffrey Lloyd in reply to a question asked in the House of Commons.

	Coal Miners (including Anthracite).				Anthracite Only.			
	No. of Applications.		No. Granted.		No. of Applications.		No. Granted.	
	Disable- ment.	Deaths.	Disable- ment.	Deaths.	Disable- ment.	Deaths.	Disable- ment.	Deaths.
1931 (1st June to 31st Dec.)	83	14	49	12	—	—	8	2
1932	174	46	122	39	—	—	57	12
1933	282	43	199	31	—	—	109	19
1934	366	58	211	35	—	—	119	20
1935	492	69	228	51	—	—	98	20
1936	674	118	319	77	311	61	182	39
1937	643	99	286	72	230	45	132	35
Total	2714	447	1414	317	541	106	705	147

The number of applications for certificates from anthracite miners for the years 1931 to 1935 is not available.

Distribution of Silicosis Deaths in the Pontardawe Area :

	1931	1932	1933	1934	1935	1936	1937	Total
Ystalyfera	1	3	4	1	2	1	5	17
Godre'rgraig	—	1	—	2	—	—	2	5
Rhiwfawr	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
Cwmtwrch	2	—	—	—	1	—	—	3
Gwaun-Cac- Gurwen	1	—	—	1	2	1	1	6
Cwmllynfell	—	1	—	—	—	2	—	3
Pontardawe	1	—	—	1	—	1	—	3
Brynamman	—	1	1	—	—	—	1	3
Craigcefnparc	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
Total	5	6	5	6	5	6	9	42

As noticed in the previous table, the number of deaths for the anthracite area was 147, and the number for the Pontardawe Area 42, which is approximately one-third of the deaths for the anthracite area.

Occupational Mortality amongst Silicosis Deaths.

Hewers	31
Firemen	2
Shotmen	2
Repairers	4
Surface Labourers	1
Hitchers	2
	—
	42
	—

The average age at death was 50 ; the oldest being 67 and the youngest 29.

It is to be hoped that useful results will accrue from the investigations now being undertaken by the Medical Research Council in the Pontardawe Area.

BIRTHS AND DEATHS.

Year	Births	Birth Rate per 1,000 Popula- tion	Deaths Under One Year	Death Rate per 1,000 Births	Deaths at all Ages	Rate per 1,000 Popula- tion
1900	720	32.8	120	163.9	360	16.8
1901	727	33.0	126	172.6	334	16.1
1902	744	35.8	109	148.6	349	15.7
1903	731	33.6	118	141.4	378	16.3
1904	832	36.1	114	139.4	368	16.0
1905	819	35.3	132	132.0	383	16.1
1906	853	36.3	132	152.0	385	16.2
1907	894	34.4	110	123.0	347	13.3
1908	956	36.6	110	107.0	392	14.6
1909	1,002	37.5	135	141.0	407	15.5
1910	1,029	37.6	131	127.0	423	15.5
1911	1,070	33.7	150	140.0	463	14.5
1912	1,027	31.7	91	88.6	400	11.8
1913	1,091	33.0	116	106.0	424	12.8
1914	1,005	30.2	110	109.0	407	12.2
1915	969	29.8	134	138.0	456	14.0
1916	891	25.0	82	93.0	415	13.0
1917	850	23.0	65	76.0	368	11.6
1918	883	26.0	94	106.5	506	16.5
1919	823	24.1	73	88.5	384	11.5
1920	932	25.0	86	92.0	439	12.7
1921	764	28.0	57	88.0	390	11.3
1922	794	22.0	58	73.0	393	10.9
1923	750	21.0	60	80.0	371	10.0
1924	743	20.0	66	90.0	412	11.0
1925	709	19.0	41	59.0	397	10.8
1926	705	19.0	52	73.0	396	10.6
1927	587	15.7	59	100.0	401	10.0
1928	640	17.0	28	44.0	373	10.0
1929	598	17.0	48	80.0	402	10.0
1930	624	15.8	38	64.0	406	10.8
1931	554	15.0	40	72.0	434	11.7
1932	552	15.2	40	68.0	424	11.4
1933	487	13.7	34	70.0	460	12.8
1934	534	14.8	34	67.0	388	10.8
1935	483	11.8	34	65.0	411	11.8
1936	443	12.3	22	51.0	380	10.9
1937	458	13.3	30	65.0	441	12.6
1938	436	12.8	24	55.1	413	12.2

LEGISLATION IN FORCE IN THE PONTARDAWE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL AREA.

ACTS OF PARLIAMENT ADOPTED BY RESOLUTION.

Date of Adoption.	Title of Act.	Powers Given.
1896, March 5th	The Infectious Diseases (Notification) Act, 1890	Compulsory Notification of Infectious Diseases.
do.	The Infectious Diseases (Prevention) Act, 1890	Inspection of Dairies and Milk Supplies; cleansing and disinfecting of infected premises; disinfecting of bedding: burial of infectious cases.
do.	The Public Health Amendment Act, 1890. Part III only.	Extended Sanitary Powers.
1902, July 10th	The Public Health (Water) Act, 1878.	To prevent occupation of houses without water supply.
do.	The Small Dwellings Acquisition Act, 1899/1923	Lending Money for acquisition of dwelling houses to be occupied by borrower.
do.	The Shops Act, 1912	Regulating the closing of Shops.
1926, Feb. 15th	Public Health Act, 1925	(a) Sections 13-16 (inclusive); Sections 20-23, and Sections 25-33 (inclusive) of Part II. (b) Section 36-38 (inclusive) and Sections 40-43 (inclusive) of Part III. (c) The whole of Part IV.

**COMPARISON OF CAUSE OF DEATH BETWEEN MINERS
AND TINWORKERS IN THE AREA DURING 1938.**

CAUSE OF DEATH	MINERS. (No. in District -- 5161)			TINWORKERS. (No. in District -- 2414)		
	No. of Cases.	Rate per 1000	Average age of death.	No. of Cases.	Rate per 1000	Average age of death.
Cancer	12	2.32	65	6	2.50	66
Heart	15	2.90	56	3	1.20	74
Bronchitis	13	2.50	66	2	.80	73
Kidney	4	.70	54	2	.80	72
Accident	6	1.10	43	—	—	—
Influenza	1	.08	68	1	.40	44
Apoplexy	11	2.10	70	5	2.07	62
Tuberculosis	5	.85	36	2	.80	41
Silicosis	11	2.10	52	—	—	—
Pneumonia	5	.90	56	2	.80	48
Pernicious Anaemia	2	.25	72	—	—	—
Diabetes	—	—	—	1	.40	81
Fibrosis of Lung	1	.08	43	—	—	—
Obstruction of Bowel	2	.25	62	—	—	—
Suicide	—	—	—	1	.40	48
Liver	—	—	—	1	.40	48
Gall Stones	1	.08	28	—	—	—
Enlarged Prostate	1	.08	71	—	—	—
Mental	1	.08	61	—	—	—
	Average age at death — 55			Average age at death — 68		

It will be noticed that the Tin Worker is far more prone to Cardiac and Kidney diseases, whilst the Miner is more prone to Influenza, Apoplexy and Accidents.

Heart Disease.

In recent years Diseases of the Heart, and Blood Vessel Disease have caused one-third of the total deaths. This is, I think, due to people dying at an older age; also to the increased stress and strain of modern life. The universality of the motor and the telephone and the facilities for mass enjoyment have made the leisure hours as wearing and as hazardous as the less popular part of our working hours.

Deaths from Heart Disease.

1915	.....	.....	.....	.....	38
1916	.....	.....	.....	.....	38
1917	.....	.....	.....	.....	25
1918	.....	.....	.....	.....	28
1919	.....	.....	.....	.....	26
1920	.....	.....	.....	.....	24
1921	.....	.....	.....	.....	28
1922	.....	.....	.....	.....	36
1923	.....	.....	.....	.....	33
1924	.....	.....	.....	.....	35
1925	.....	.....	.....	.....	41
1926	.....	.....	.....	.....	51
1927	.....	.....	.....	.....	44
1928	.....	.....	.....	.....	54
1929	.....	.....	.....	.....	44
1930	.....	.....	.....	.....	50
1931	.....	.....	.....	.....	70
1932	.....	.....	.....	.....	84
1933	.....	.....	.....	.....	81
1934	.....	.....	.....	.....	102
1935	.....	.....	.....	.....	95
1936	.....	.....	.....	.....	90
1937	.....	.....	.....	.....	109
1938	.....	.....	.....	.....	101

Diabetes.

I have recorded the figures for the last 23 years and it will be noticed that from 1915 to 1922 there were no deaths, but from 1923 onwards a number of deaths were recorded, and the number is increasing. This is probably due to increased facilities in chemical diagnosis, and that during the routine examination, especially for Insurance Policies, more cases of Diabetes are being diagnosed.

Deaths from Diabetes.

1915	.....	.....	.....	0
1916	.....	.....	.....	0
1917	.....	.....	.....	0
1918	.....	.....	.....	0
1919	.....	.....	.....	0
1920	.....	.....	.....	0
1921	.....	.....	.....	0
1922	.....	.....	.....	0
1923	.....	.....	.....	5
1924	.....	.....	.....	4
1925	.....	.....	.....	4
1926	.....	.....	.....	0
1927	.....	.....	.....	4
1928	.....	.....	.....	2
1929	.....	.....	.....	4
1930	.....	.....	.....	6
1931	.....	.....	.....	6
1932	.....	.....	.....	3
1933	.....	.....	.....	8
1934	.....	.....	.....	5
1935	.....	.....	.....	5
1936	.....	.....	.....	8
1937	.....	.....	.....	7
1938	.....	.....	.....	7

Deaths from Kidney Disease.

1915	.....	.....	.....	6
1916	.....	.....	.....	13
1917	.....	.....	.....	10
1918	.....	.....	.....	8
1919	.....	.....	.....	8
1920	.....	.....	.....	8
1921	.....	.....	.....	9
1922	.....	.....	.....	7
1923	.....	.....	.....	6
1924	.....	.....	.....	8
1925	.....	.....	.....	5
1926	.....	.....	.....	10
1927	.....	.....	.....	19
1928	.....	.....	.....	13
1929	.....	.....	.....	8
1930	.....	.....	.....	17
1931	.....	.....	.....	14
1932	.....	.....	.....	14
1933	.....	.....	.....	17
1934	.....	.....	.....	7
1935	.....	.....	.....	15
1936	.....	.....	.....	16
1937	.....	.....	.....	10
1938	.....	.....	.....	11

DEATHS ACCORDING TO AGES.

Year.	Total All Ages.	Under 1.	1—2	2—5	5—15	15—25	25—45	45—65	65 upwards.
1911	463	150	32	20	13	26	67	68	87
1912	387	91	16	15	25	31	64	104	41
1913	424	116	15	13	19	28	60	82	91
1915	456	134	24	22	16	33	55	80	92
1916	415	82	15	15	24	22	66	94	97
1917	368	66	11	22	17	27	53	78	94
1918	506	94	26	40	37	40	111	79	79
1919	385	74	18	29	14	30	62	75	83
1920	439	86	20	12	20	45	66	86	104
1921	390	87	18	20	22	21	40	83	99
1922	393	58	13	13	21	32	48	85	123
1923	371	60	8	5	19	19	44	94	122
1924	413	67	16	13	28	30	59	109	91
1925	397	41	17	9	15	31	91	89	104
1926	396	52	8	11	11	34	57	88	135
1927	401	59	9	5	16	33	62	107	110
1928	375	28	7	9	19	24	48	120	120
1929	406	48	6	12	19	26	45	110	140
1930	415	38	7	9	11	31	48	128	143
1931	434	40	13	10	10	22	60	127	152
1932	424	39	3	15	13	35	60	109	150
1933	460	35	9	8	17	27	48	150	166
1934	388	34	2	2	22	29	61	108	130
1935	411	34	4	6	5	29	57	129	147
1936	380	22	1	9	8	18	49	119	154
1937	441	26	5	2	7	19	60	162	160
1938	413	24	8	4	18	24	62	132	140

This table shows the deaths at young ages to be decreasing; for example, the deaths in 1911 under 1 year of age was 150, and in 1937 it was 26.

RAINFALL IN 1938.
AT WERN HOUSE, YSTALYFERA.

Month.	Total Depth.	Greatest fall in 24 hours.		Number of days with .01 or more recorded.
	Inches.	Date.	Inches.	
January	11.17	15th	1.10	25
February	4.14	28th	.99	12
March	1.84	25th	1.03	8
April .....	.41	24th	.24	3
May	6.32	16th	1.35	18
June	5.95	27th	1.44	18
July	6.53	7th	1.04	21
August	6.56	5th	1.57	18
September	2.71	18th	.87	14
October	13.00	13th	2.89	24
November	11.21	11th	1.29	26
December	6.85	10th	1.21	19
Total	76.69			206

Rain Gauge.

Diameter of Funnel, 5 inches.

Height of top—Above ground, 1 foot 6 inches.

Above sea level, 240 feet.

LILY WILLIAMS.

RAINFALL FROM 1894—1938.

The diameter of the funnel is 5 inches.

The height of the top above ground is 18 inches.

The average rainfall for the last 41 years is 68.81 inches.

1894	75.92 ins.
1895	56.32 „
1896	57.00 „
1897	71.99 „
1898	60.50 „
1899	57.17 „
1900	71.30 „
1901	57.40 „

RAINFALL FROM 1894—1938—(continued).

1902	.....	.....	50.06	ins.
1903	.....	.....	81.84	,,
1904	.....	.....	62.14	,,
1905	.....	.....	52.02	,,
1906	.....	.....	67.26	,,
1907	.....	.....	66.47	,,
1908	.....	.....	66.33	,,
1909	.....	.....	67.25	,,
1910	.....	.....	71.38	,,
1911	.....	.....	70.52	,,
1912	.....	.....	82.34	,,
1913	.....	.....	77.86	,,
1914	.....	.....	72.82	,,
1915	.....	.....	65.09	,,
1916	.....	.....	72.90	,,
1917	.....	.....	63.00	,,
1918	.....	.....	74.55	,,
1919	.....	.....	59.85	,,
1920	.....	.....	85.51	,,
1921	.....	.....	56.50	,,
1922	.....	.....	65.90	,,
1923	.....	.....	77.84	,,
1924	.....	.....	88.22	,,
1925	.....	.....	69.22	,,
1926	.....	.....	55.54	,,
1927	.....	.....	79.73	,,
1928	.....	.....	95.00	,,
1929	.....	.....	75.78	,,
1930	.....	.....	80.57	,,
1931	.....	.....	71.23	,,
1932	.....	.....	71.50	,,
1933	.....	.....	53.21	,,
1934	.....	.....	68.38	,,
1935	.....	.....	70.29	,,
1936	.....	.....	60.26	,,
1937	.....	.....	58.32	,,
1938	.....	.....	76.69	,,

SANITARY INSPECTOR'S ANNUAL REPORT.

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I beg to submit my Annual Report for the year 1938 :—

Dilapidated premises repaired	84
Choked drains attended to	17
Choked conveniences attended to	3
Overcrowded eases	168
Miscellaneous complaints investigated and action taken where necessary	33
Back areas paved	34
Dirty houses cleansed	8
Overflowing cesspools cleansed	10
Verminous premises cleansed	7
Complaints made by Factory Inspector investigated and dealt with	4
Mines and dangerous openings attended to	3
Connections to Sewer (including Coedgwilym Sewerage Scheme)	124
Certificates issued under Housing Act, 1935 (2)	33

Destruction of Bedding.

Compensation paid for the destruction of bedding. £6/10/0

Scavenging.

The scavenging in the area is done by direct labour in Clydach, Ystalyfera, Pontardawe and Gwam-Cae-Gurwen.

Dumping places are leased by the Council.

Details of scavenging done by direct labour are as follows :

No. of Scavenging Lorries owned by Council	4
No. of Sanitary Men	19

SCAVENGING LORRIES—SUMMARY FOR 1938.

LORRY.	LOADS.				PETROL CONSUMPTION (Gals)					TOTAL MILEAGE.					Average miles per gallon.	
	Jan. to Mar.	April to June.	July to Sept.	Oct. to Dec.	Total.	Jan. to Mar.	April to June.	July to Sept.	Oct. to Dec.	Total.	Jan. to Mar.	April to June.	July to Sept.	Oct. to Dec.		Total.
Pontardawe	518	500	538	466	2022	293	254	266	262	1075	2155	2052	2079	1886	8172	7.57
Clydach	532	468	512	484	1996	300	296	290	291	1217	2157	1880	2062	1943	8042	6.71
Ystalyfera	610	590	597	599	2396	338	329	364	301	1332	1977	1939	2006	1968	7890	5.92
Gwaun-Cae-Gurwen	623	641	686	596	2546	330	334	353	359	1376	1760	1820	1820	1830	7230	5.25

Dumping Places owned or rented by the Council.

		<i>Any provision to burn paper.</i>
Clydach (Penybank)	.....	Nil.
Pontardawe	.....	One Incinerator.
Ystalyfera	.....	Nil.
Gwaun-Cae-Gurwen	.....	Nil.
Cwmllynfell	.....	Nil.
Rhiwfawr (Brynmorgan Field)	.....	Nil.
Proposed to use Pwll-y-Balance.		

The work of scavenging is much increased by the lack of suitable bins for disposing of the refuse. All kinds of receptacles are used which do not properly hold the refuse. They are readily accessible to all the dogs in the neighbourhood. It would be far more sanitary if all householders provided proper sanitary bins which have properly fitting covers.

Also householders should be urged to burn all combustible material and this, in my opinion, would lessen the work of the dustman and render the dumps far less unsightly.

Closet Accommodation.

(a) Pail System in District :—

		<i>No. of Privy Pails Cleansed during the Year.</i>
Cilybebyll	.....	10,036
Cwmllynfell	.....	17,056
Rhydyfro	.....	6,240
Rhiwfawr	.....	5,542
Clydach	.....	130
Ynisymond	.....	3,640
Craigcefnparc	.....	572
Garnswllt and Mawr	.....	—
Total	.....	43,216

(b) Conversion from Conservancy system to water carriage system	.....	124
(c) Pans renewed	.....	10
(d) Connections from premises to Sewers	.....	124
(e) Verbal notice	.....	5

Public Cleansing.

(a) Cesspools overflowing and cleansed	.....	10
(b) Preliminary notices issued	.....	33
(c) Certificates granted under the Rent Restriction Act	.....	Nil
(d) Dirty condition of premises	.....	8

Factories Act.

All Factories and Workshops in the area were visited and all complaints received attention. All were fairly satisfactory. The number registered under the Act of 1901 is as follows :—

Dressmaking	5
Tailoring	7
Stonedressing	3
Bootmaking	9
Cycle Repairs	1
Motor Vehicle Repairs	10
Gas Making	1
Steel Works	1
Nickel Works	1
Brickmaking	4
Saw Mills	3
Joinery	14
Wagon Repairing	5
Bakehouses	11
Hot water tank making	1
Tinplate Works	10
Aerated Water	2
Bus Garages	2
Iron Founding and Jobbing Engineers	2
De-tinning of Scrap	1
Letterpress Printing	2
Mortar Making	8
Flour Milling	1
Chaff Cutting	1
Blacksmiths and Farriers	4
Generation of Electricity	4
Coachbuilding	1
Sausage Making	3

Shops and Offices.

No. of Shops without sanitary conveniences	2
No. of Notices served	2

All complaints made were attended to.

Provisions relating to ventilation and temperature—(see Circular 1600, May, 1937).

Bakehouses.

No. in regular use	11
No. of inspections	20

All were found to be in a satisfactory condition ; and there was no cause to take action.

Fried Fish Shops.

No. in District	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	17
No. of inspections	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	23

There has been a great improvement in the stoves used for frying fish ; the fumes are carried away in a more satisfactory manner ; also the oil used for frying has improved.

Cinemas.

No. in District	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	7
No. of inspections	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	15

The ventilation and sanitary arrangements are fairly good.

Rats and Mice (Destruction) Act, 1919.

No action taken.

Petroleum Act.

No. of premises registered under the Petroleum (Consolidation) Act, 1918

These premises were periodically visited by the Chief Officer of the Fire Brigade.

Inspection of Dwelling-houses during the Year :—

(1) (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts	84
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	84
(2) (a) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 and 1932	84
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	84
(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	84
(4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	10

Remedy of Defects during the Year without Service of formal Notices.

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers	47
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Action under Statutory Powers during the Year.

(a) Proceedings under sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936 :	Nil
(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	Nil
(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices	Nil
(a) By Owners	Nil
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	Nil
(b) Proceedings under Public Health Acts :	
(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	124
(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :	124
(a) By Owners	124
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	Nil
(c) Proceedings under sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936 :	
(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	18
(2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	2
(d) Proceedings under section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936 :	
(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made	14
(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenements or room having been rendered fit	2

Housing Act, 1936.—Part IV.—Overcrowding.

(a) (i) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year	168
(ii) Number of families dwelling therein	215
(iii) Number of persons dwelling therein	1134
(b) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year	Nil
(c) (i) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	Nil
(ii) Number of persons concerned in such cases	Nil
(d) Particulars of any cases in which dwelling-houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding	Nil

- (e) Any other particulars with respect to overcrowding conditions upon which the Medical Officer of Health may consider it desirable to report ... Nil.

Milk Supply.

- (a) Number of Inspections made of Cowsheds, Dairies and Milkshops during the year 340
- (b) Number of Cowsheds erected 3
- (c) Number of Cowsheds which were internally re-conditioned, new floors and channels in cement concrete, additional windows fixed for improving the lighting and ventilation, new stalls and troughs, etc. erected 25
- (d) New Dairies erected 3
- (e) Number of Cowsheds limewashed on internal surfaces of walls, and interior of roofs cleansed as the result of informal action taken 60

Samples of graded and ungraded milk have been taken frequently. Particulars of this are given in the Medical Officer of Health's Report.

Meat and Other Foods.

The number of Licensed Slaughterhouses and Slaughtermen in the area is as follows :—

	<i>Number of Slaughterhouses.</i>	<i>Number of Slaughtermen.</i>
Clydach	3	7
Brynamman	1	2
Ystalyfera	5	7
Cwmtwrch	1	1
Pontardawe	3	4
Alltwen	2	2
Ynisymond	1	3
Cwmillynfell	2	3
Trecbanos	2	—
Cwmgorse	2	4
Godre'rgraig	1	2
Ynismeudw	1	2
Total	24	37

Numerous inspections were made during slaughtering.

These privately owned Slaughterhouses within the District are visited as regularly as possible and the meat is generally satisfactory.

In such a district as this of over 54.64 square miles it is impossible to inspect all carcasses and offal. This difficulty is also increased by the varied times and days on which slaughtering takes place, and with the multiplicity of routine duties which must be carried out by the Sanitary Inspector.

Butchers' Shops.

Number of visits to butchers' shops and inspections of vans delivering meat in the district 120

Slaughtering of Animals Act, 1933.

Number of Licenses granted to persons to act as slaughtermen under Section 3 37

Renewal of Licenses for one year Nil

Carcasses Inspected and Condemned.

	Cattle, includ- ing Cows.	Cows.	Calves.	Sheep and Lambs.	Pigs.
Number killed (if known)	—	—	—	—	—
Number inspected	625	130	172	8,462	656
<i>All diseases except Tuberculosis.</i>					
Whole carcasses condemned	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	97	20	Nil	508	Nil
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis	15.5%	15.4%	Nil	6.0%	Nil
<i>Tuberculosis only.</i>					
Whole carcasses condemned	2	2	Nil	Nil	Nil
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	2	2	Nil	Nil	Nil
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis .....	.7%	3.0%	Nil	Nil	Nil

Distomatosis	.....	.....	20
Echinococcus	.....	.....	Nil
Strongylus	.....	.....	Nil
Fevered Flesh	.....	.....	Nil
Dropsical Flesh	.....	.....	Nil

No milk marketing scheme under Part III of the Public Health (Meat) Regulations 1924 is in force in the area.

Other Foods.

No. of canned goods on examination found to be "blown or leaky" and unfit for human consumption	36
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INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

1. No. of investigations made of Notified Infectious Diseases Cases	417
2. No. removed to Hospital, in respect of—						
(a) Scarlet Fever	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	130
(b) Diphtheria	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	76
3. No. of premises fumigated	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	206
4. No. of cases where clothes were taken away to be disinfected	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	5
5. No. of cases where bedding was destroyed, as a result of—						
(a) Tuberculosis	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	3
(b) Infantile Paralysis	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	2

Every case visited was supplied with disinfecting soap and disinfectant. Full instructions were given as to the care to be taken to prevent the spread of infection.

Other children in the house were stopped going to school until the quarantine period had expired.

A. E. EDMUNDS,
Sanitary Inspector.

ENGINEER'S REPORT.

The following are the Works executed during 1938, Works in Hand, and Prospective Works :

PARISH OF CILYBEBYLL.

Works Executed.

- 180 yards Renewal and Enlargement from 2-inch to 3-inch Cast Iron Watermains, including reconnecting houses at Dyffryn Road, Alltwen.
- 425 yards of 2-inch Asbestos Mains from 4-inch Main to Pentreharne.
- 153 yards Renewal and Enlargement from 2-inch to 3-inch Cast Iron Watermains, including reconnecting houses at Graig Road, Gellynudd.
- Fixing Fire Hydrants at Graig Road, Dyffryn Road, Alltwen Hill, Park Road, Edward Street and Railway Terrace.
- Fixing Main Water Supply Meter near L.M. & S. Railway Station, Pontardawe.
- Fencing around Spring at Nantmarl, Varteg.

Prospective Works.

- 1145 yards Renewal and Enlargement from 4-inch to 5-inch Cast Iron Watermains, including reconnecting all houses, and fixing Fire Hydrants, etc., from Brynllwelyn to Cross Hands, Alltwen.
- 1360 yards Extension of 3-inch Watermains from Hendre-caradog to Wigfa Tank, and renewal and enlargement from 2-inch to 3-inch from Wigfa Tank to Penrheol Tank, Cilybebyll.
- Fixing additional Fire Hydrants at Alltwen, Gellynudd and Rhos.
- Sewerage Scheme for Rhos.
- Sewerage Scheme for Gellynudd.
- Fixing Water Meters for private consumers.
- Painting Sewer Vent Shafts.

PARISH OF LLANGUICKE.

Works Executed.

- Building Urinal at Herbert Street, Pontardawe.
- Fencing around Coedffaldau Springs.
- Building Council Stores off Upper Colbren Road, Gwaun-Cae-Gurwen.

- Resurfacing road to Post Mortem Room at Ystalyfera.
 Resurfacing road to Brynamman Refuse Tip.
 Resurfacing road to Ystalyfera Refuse Tip.
 Fixing Fire Hydrants at Ystalyfera, Godre'rgraig, Rhydyfro
 and Gwaun-Cae-Gurwen.
 86 yards Extension of 6-inch Sewer at Bethesda Road,
 Ynismeudw.
 Demolishing Urinal at junction of Gurnos and St. David's
 Road, Ystalyfera.
 300 yards Renewal and Enlargement of Watermains from
 2-inch to 3-inch from Penstack House to Old Quarry.
 180 yards of 3-inch Cast Iron Watermains for Housing Site at
 Alltcham, Pontardawe.
 129 yards of 3-inch Cast Iron Watermains for Cilmaengwyn
 Housing Site.
 45 yards Laying 4-inch Cast Iron Watermains at Derri Road,
 Rhiwfawr.

Works in Hand.

- Cwmllynfell and Cwmtwrch Sewerage Scheme.
 57 yards of 12-inch Steel Tubes.
 3281 yards of 9-inch Cast Iron Pipes.
 3067 yards of 9-inch Stoneware Pipes.
 219 yards of 6-inch Cast Iron Pipes.
 3625 yards of 6-inch Stoneware Pipes.
 150 yards Renewal of 4-inch Water Mains from Rhiwfawr
 Chapel to Council Houses, on Hendreforgan Road, Rhiw-
 fawr.
 Covering Pwlllybalance Pit at Mynyddbach and forming chute
 of Refuse Tip.
 Building Urinal at Owen's Lane, Godre'rgraig.
 Building Urinal at Tai'rgwaith.
 Painting Railings around Pumping Station and Balancing Tank
 at Gwaun-Cae-Gurwen.

Prospective Works.

- Painting Sewer Vent Shafts at Ystalyfera, Godre'rgraig,
 Pontardawe, Ynismeudw, Gwaun-Cae-Gurwen, Bryn-
 amman, Tai'rgwaith, Cwmllynfell and Cwmtwrch.
 2528 yards Renewal and Enlargement of Watermains from
 3-inch to 4-inch from Coedffaldau Springs to Clwyd,
 Cwmllynfell, including reconnecting houses to new Mains.
 Building New Storage Reservoir at Penlan, Rhiwfawr.
 337 yards Renewal and Enlargement of Watermains from
 2-inch to 3-inch from Old Quarry to end of Penstack
 Houses.

- 20 yards Lowering 6-inch Cast Iron Watermain over Canal Bridge at Herbert Street, Pontardawe.
- 66 yards Renewal and Enlargement of Watermains from 4-inch to 6-inch for byepass around Bryn Tank, Brynamman.
- House connections to Cwmllynfell and Cwmtwrch Sewerage Scheme.
- 123 yards Renewal and Enlargement of Watermains from 3-inch to 6-inch to connect to Bryn Tank, Brynamman.
- 111 yards Extension of 3-inch Watermains from Brynamman Road to bye-road leading to Brynamman Refuse Tip.
- 25 yards of 15-inch Stoneware Drain at Brynamman Refuse Tip. Storage Tank at Bryn, Black Mountain, Brynamman.
- Mechanical Filter at Bryn, Black Mountain, Brynamman.
- 180 yards Renewal of 4-inch Watermains from Council Houses to beyond hay shed on Hendreforgan Road, Rhiwfawr.
- Fencing around Dderi Springs and Tank.
- 30 yards Renewal and Enlargement of Watermains from 2-inch to 3-inch, including reconnecting houses at Lower Colbren Road, Gwaun-Cae-Gurwen.
- 15 yards Renewal and Enlargement of Watermains from 2-inch to 3-inch, including reconnecting houses at Pontygroes Road, Gwaun-Cae-Gurwen.
- 30 yards Renewal and Enlargement of Watermains from 2-inch to 3-inch, including reconnecting houses at Gron Road, Gwaun-Cae-Gurwen.
- 33 yards Renewal and Enlargement of Watermains from 2-inch to 3-inch, including reconnecting houses to new Mains near Maerdy, Gwaun-Cae-Gurwen.
- 117 yards Renewal and Enlargement of Watermains from 1-inch to 3-inch, including reconnecting houses to new Mains off Waunleyshon, Gwaun-Cae-Gurwen.
- 340 yards Extension of 3-inch Watermains for new Council Houses off Penywern Road, Ystalyfera.
- 117 yards Renewal and Enlargement of Watermains from 2-inch to 3-inch from Old Wern School across Canal Bridge near Ystalyfera Tinplate Works.
- 120 yards Renewal and Enlargement of Watermains from 2-inch to 3-inch, including reconnecting houses to new Mains from Gough Road to Penywern Road, Ystalyfera.
- 650 yards Extension of 4-inch Watermains from Pont Harry to near Ystalyfera Tinplate Works.

- 201 yards Renewal and Enlargement of Watermains from 2-inch to 3-inch, including reconnecting houses to new Mains at Clyngwyn Road, Ystalyfera.
- 650 yards Pipe scraping Watermains from Gough Road to Alltygrug Road, Ystalyfera.
- 960 yards Pipe scraping Watermains from Mount Hill to Pwllbach, Ystalyfera.
- 86 yards of 9-inch Channel Pipes from Filter Beds to Irrigation Land at Godre'rgraig Sewage Outfall Works.
- 102 yards Extension of 3-inch Watermains off Holly Street, Pontardawe.
- 110 yards Extension of 3-inch Watermains from Pentwyn Level to existing Storage Tank.
- Clearing out Pentwyn Level, strengthening roof and walling sides of level so as to form impounding reservoir.
- 184 yards Extension of 3-inch Watermains from Alltywerin Road, Pontardawe, to proposed house for Manager of Tareni Colliery.
- Enlargement of Pontardawe Sewage Disposal Works.
- Sewerage Scheme for Rhiwfawr.
- Sewerage Scheme for Rhydyfro.
- Urinal for Ystalyfera.
- Ladies' Convenience near Level Crossing, Gwaun-Cae-Gurwen.
- Fixing additional Hydrants at Brynamman, Gwaun-Cae-Gurwen, Cwmgorse, Tai'rgwaith, Cwmllynfell, Rhiwfawr, Ystalyfera, Godre'rgraig, Ynismeudw, Pontardawe and Rhydyfro.

PARISH OF RHYNDWYCLYDACH.

Works Executed.

- 1592 yards of 9-inch Stoneware Sewers at Coedgwilym and Capel Road, Clydach.
- 79 yards of 9-inch Cast Iron Sewers from Capel Road to existing Manhole near Canal.
- 365 yards of 6-inch Stoneware Sewers at Pontardawe Road, Clydach.
- Emptying and refilling media in one Filter Bed at Clydach Outfall Works.
- Fixing Water Meters for private consumers.
- Fixing additional Hydrants at Clydach, Craigcefnparc and Trebanos.
- 60 yards of 6-inch Stoneware Sewers at Forge Road, Clydach.
- Extending fence around Penybank Refuse Tip.
- 153 yards of 3-inch Cast Iron Watermains off Pheasant Road, Trebanos.

42 yards Relaying Watermain over River near Hendy Colliery, Craigcefnparc.

36 yards Extension of Watermain off Glynmeirch Road, Trebanos.

Repairs to wall of Filter Bed at Trebanos.

Works in Hand.

Extensions to Clydach Sewage Outfall Works which include One Sedimentation Tank ; Two Humus Tanks ; Two Stormwater Tanks ; One Filter Bed ; Eight Sludge Drying Beds ; Pumping House, Well and Pump ; new Screening Chamber and Syphon in Dosing Tank to operate sprinklers on Filter Beds ; Stoneware Pipes from all Tanks to Well of Pumping House, and pipes from Pump to Sedimentation Tank and Drying Beds ; also new Stores for Attendant at Farm.

Earth and slag embankment to protect part of Outfall Works.
Concrete Retaining Wall to protect upper portion of Outfall Works.

Fixing Tidal Valves at Clydach Outfall Works.

Fixing additional Fire Hydrants at Clydach and Craigcefnparc.

Fixing additional Water Meters for private consumers.

Prospective Works.

200 yards of 4-inch Cast Iron Watermains from Clydach Post Office to junction with Aberclydach Place.

14 yards Diversion of 4-inch Cast Iron Watermains at Penybanc, Clydach.

1215 yards of 4-inch Cast Iron Watermains from Mountain Road, Craigcefnparc, along mountain side to Graigfelin.

Building Storage Tank above Graigfelin.

1517 yards Renewal and Enlargement of Watermains from Clydach Post Office along Main Road to junction with Capel Road.

Painting Sewer Bridge over River Tawe, Clydach.

39 yards Renewal and Enlargement from 2-inch to 3-inch Watermains from junction of Aberclydach Place to Waverley Street, Clydach.

Painting Railings around Clydach Outfall Works.

Painting Sewer Vent Shafts at Clydach and Trebanos.

Sewering of Craigcefnparc.

126 yards of 3-inch Cast Iron Watermains at Tanycoed, Clydach.

58 yards of 3-inch Cast Iron Watermains at Caeismaen, Trebanos.

- 200 yards Renewal and Enlargement from 2-inch to 3-inch Cast Iron Watermains from Bungalow Tank to Graig Road, Trebanos.
- 75 yards Renewal and Enlargement from 2-inch to 3-inch Cast Iron Watermains at Uplands, Pontardawe.
- 40 yards Extension of Storm Overflow at Trebanos Outfall Works.
- 120 yards Extension of 6-inch and 4-inch Stoneware Sewers off Forge Road, Clydach.

PARISH OF MAWR.

Works Executed.

- Painting Railings around Springs and Tank at Garnswllt.
- Cleaning Stoneware Pipes from Springs to Tank, and building Chamber at Garnswllt.
- Fixing Fire Hydrant below Schools at Garnswllt.
- 81 yards of 2-inch Asbestos Cement Pipes on Cwmcerdinen Road, Garnswllt.

Prospective Works.

- Extension of Sewers at Garnswllt to connect to Amman Valley Joint Sewerage Scheme.
- Sewerage Scheme for Velindre and portion of Craigcefnparc in the Parish of Mawr.
- Urinal for Craigcefnparc.

PARISH OF YNISYMOND.

Works Executed.

- Renewal of Water Meter at Upper Ynisymond.
- Renewal of part of Watermain on Llwyndu Road, Lower Ynisymond.

Works in Hand.

- Fixing additional Hydrant at Lower Ynisymond Road near Llwyndu.
- Painting Sewer Vent Shafts at Upper Ynisymond.

Prospective Works.

- Sewerage Scheme for Upper and Lower Ynisymond.
- Fixing additional Hydrants at Graigola Road, Glais, and Ynisymond Road.
- Enlargement of Water Meter at Lower Ynisymond.

GENERAL.**Works Executed.**

Building Tower in Council Yard, Pontardawe, for Fire Brigade.

Resurfacing Council Yard, Pontardawe.

Forming Turnabout at Carmel Cemetery, Gwaun-Cae-Gurwen.

Extending Fencing at Coedgwilym Cemetery, Clydach.

Street Numbering Craigcefnparc, part of Rhiwfawr, Graig-twrch, Cwmllynfell, Trebanos, Ynismeudw, Pontardawe and Ystalyfera.

Prospective Works.

Building Lodge at Coedgwilym Cemetery, Clydach.

Resurfacing part of carriageways at Coedgwilym Cemetery with Tarmacadam and fixing curbs.

Painting Post Mortem Rooms at Clydach, Ystalyfera and Gwaun-Cae-Gurwen.

Street Numbering parts of Clydach, Ynisymond, Pontardawe, Godre'rgraig, Ystalyfera, Gwaun-Cae-Gurwen, Cwmllynfell, Rhiwfawr and Garnswllt.

B. ISLWYN PHILLIPS,

Engineer and Surveyor.

SCHEDULE SHOWING NEW BUILDINGS ERECTED DURING THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1938.

Name of Districts.	No. of Houses Completed.	No. of Houses in Course of Erection.	No. of Houses Approved but not Commenced	Additions to Houses.	Other Buildings.	Total
Pontardawe (including Alltwen, Ynis-meudw, Rhydyfro, etc.)	23	4	4	9	4	44
Gwaun-Cae-Curwen (including Brynamman, Cwmgorse, Cwmllynfell)	3	1	2	4	3	13
Ystalyfera (including Godre'rgraig, Rhivfawr, Lower Cwmtwrech, Varteg)	2	7	2	8	4	23
Clydach (including Trebanos, Ynisymond, Glais, Craigeffinpare, Velindre, Carnswilt, etc.)	62	20	15	65	5	167
TOTAL	90	32	23	86	16	247

**SCHEDULE OF PLANS SUBMITTED, ETC. FOR APPROVAL DURING THE YEAR ENDED
31st DECEMBER, 1938.**

Date of Meeting.	No. of Plans Submitted.	No. of Plans Approved.	No. of Houses Approved.	No. of Additions to Dwellings Approved.	No. of Other Buildings Approved.	No. of New Licences Granted.	No. of Renewals of Licences.
6th January, 1938	7	2	—	1	1	—	—
20th January	12	9	1	2	2	3	—
3rd February	15	11	4	4	1	3	—
17th February	8	3	1	—	2	—	5
3rd March	12	6	1	2	2	1	6
17th March	15	10	11	1	3	3	2
31st March	11	4	—	1	3	2	—
14th April	20	10	2	2	6	4	—
28th April	14	8	1	2	5	4	—
12th May	17	8	2	2	4	3	2
26th May	10	4	1	1	2	1	1
9th June	12	8	4	3	3	1	—
23rd June	15	9	2	3	6	3	1
7th July	12	6	—	3	4	2	—
21st July	11	4	—	3	1	1	3
18th August	13	10	12	2	2	2	1
1st September	8	8	3	2	3	3	1
15th September	5	5	—	1	3	1	1
5th October	9	7	5	2	4	1	—
13th October	8	6	2	1	4	1	2
27th October	4	3	—	1	3	2	—
10th November	12	10	4	3	2	1	11
23rd November	7	4	1	—	5	2	4
8th December	9	9	3	1	3	1	—
22nd December	7	6	12	—	6	3	6
					3	3	13
Total	273	170	74	40	80	50	58

ARCHITECT'S REPORT.

Progress up to 31st December, 1938.

In spite of the demand made on the building industry by the Rearmament Programme, steady progress was maintained during 1938 both in Slum Clearance and the provision of new houses to let at low rents. There was a concentrated effort in the rehousing of slum dwellers and substantial headway was made. In view of such progress it is anticipated that for the next few years the number of houses to abate overerowing will increase and the number for slum dwellers decrease.

In certain areas, due to industrial depression and the consequent migration of families, the housing problem has been less acute than hitherto, but in the townships of Pontardawe, Gwaun-Cae-Gurwen, Clydach and Ystalyfera, there is still a large shortage of houses, while in the villages and the rural parts there is a pressing need for more cottages for rural workers. In the course of 1938 Parliament passed three important Acts bearing on housing, viz., The Housing (Financial Provisions) Act, 1938 ; The Housing (Rural Workers) Amendment Act, 1938 ; and The Increase of Rent and Mortgage Interest (Restrictions) Act, 1938. One of the objects of the Housing (Financial Provisions) Act was to provide for Exchequer contributions at an uniform rate for houses provided for slum clearance and abatement of overerowing until September, 1942. The Housing (Rural Workers) Amendment Act extends, with certain modifications, the Housing (Rural Workers) Acts, 1926-31, which expired on the 24th June this year.

During the year the position reached in the Council's Housing Campaign by the 31st December, 1938, can best be shown by the summarised totals as set out in detail in the accompanying Statement.

Site.	HOUSING ACT.							Remarks.
	1890	1919	1924	1925	1930	1936	Total.	
Craigcelfnpare			10				10	
Clydach—Tanyrallt		26	24				50	
Tygwyn			92				92	
Tanycoed					31		31	
Trebanos		22	24				46	
Alltacham—Alltywerin & Gwyrddgoed		14	68		39	15	121	Built by Direct Labour.
Brynawel							15	
Alltwn		12	30				42	
Ynisymond			14				14	
Rhos			14				14	
Ynismeudw			12				12	
Godre'rgraig—Maesycloed		16	20				36	
Hodgson Road			36				36	
Cilmaengwyn							21	Built by Direct Labour.
Ystalyfera—Ynisyddarren	28	48	72		21		206	
Wernwood		2			58		2	
Rhiwfawr			14				14	
Cwmlllynfell—Railway Road		6					6	
Isybryniau			20				20	Built by Direct Labour.
Gwernant					20		20	
Garnswllt			12				12	
Gwaun-eae-Gurven—Pontygroes				22	6		28	
Crescent Road			37				37	
Colbren Square		16	24				40	
Derwydd Avenue		8	20				20	
C'wngorse			4				12	Built by Direct Labour.
Graigtwreh					11		11	
TOTAL	28	170	547	22	186	15	968	

Progress under the 1930 and 1936 Acts.

The total output of houses completed and occupied during the year was 67 :—

20 at Cwmllynfell.
11 at Graigtwrch.
21 at Cilmaengwyn.
15 at Alltacham.

—
Total 67
—

In the post-war period this constitutes a record in house production by the Council, the average in previous years being 50 per annum.

All houses provided this year were built by Direct Labour and were utilised for rehousing families from slums. As these houses merely replace old ones condemned for closure or demolition, the net increase in accommodation is small compared with the housing needs.

The number of persons rehoused from slums was 257.

In conjunction with the erection of the 15 houses at Alltacham, the construction of a play-park for children was provided and equipped with paddling pool, slides, swings, sand pits, etc., the scheme being assisted by a Grant from the King George V Memorial Foundation.

For rehousing slum dwellers, 30 other houses are in course of erection at Penywern, Ystalyfera. This scheme is carried out by Contract.

1935 Act—Abatement of Overcrowding.

There is as yet very little information available as to the progress made in abating the overcrowding disclosed by the 1935-36 Survey. The eleven houses at Cwmllynfell and the four houses at Graigtwrch originally allocated for the purpose were, with the consent of the Minister of Health, utilised for rehousing persons from slums.

Of the 181 families found overcrowded in the District at the 1935 Survey no official figures exist to show how many are still overcrowded or have ceased to be so, or how many dwellings have become overcrowded since the Survey. Often houses cease to be overcrowded by deaths, marriages, and other means. Occasionally use of the ordinary Council house vacancies create a chain of transfers, in course of which it follows that several families become relieved of overcrowding. It is difficult to ascertain how many families have escaped overcrowding from these transfers. It will be seen, therefore, that although a record output of housing accommodation was secured during the year, only a modest beginning has been made in the relief of overcrowding.

Houses without State or Rate Aid.

Beyond the 22 houses built at Pontygroes last year under the 1925 Act, no houses were built specifically for letting to persons other than those living under slum conditions. Proposals for the provision of 18 such houses at Clydach and 9 at Trebanos have been submitted to the Ministry of Health. When these houses are erected they will provide a real addition to the general pool of housing accommodation. The basis of a new house for replacing a demolished slum house leaves the problem more or less unchanged.

Houses Built by Private Enterprise.

During the year unsubsidised Private Enterprise supplied 90 houses. This is an increase of 27 over the record output of 63 last year.

As will be seen from the following Table, 579 new houses have been built in the post-war period by subsidised and unsubsidised Private Enterprise.

Year.						No. of Houses built.
1919	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	11
1920	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	17
1921	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	33
1922	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	36
1923	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	23
1924	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	13
1925	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	21
1926	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	15
1927	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	11
1928	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	12
1929	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	21
1930	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	14
1931	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	14
1932	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	12
1933	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	22
1934	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	45
1935	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	62
1936	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	44
1937	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	63
1938	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	90
TOTAL						579

As the majority of the houses thus provided are of a type suitable for the working classes, the contribution of unaided private enterprise towards the solution of the housing problem is considerable.

Housing (Rural Workers) Act.

There is still scope for greater activity in the District under this Act. The reconditioning of rural cottages in suitable cases not only improves the standard of accommodation for country workers, but also extends the life of many picturesque cottages of Welsh Traditional Design.

The Housing (Rural Workers) Amendment Act, 1938, extends the operation of the scheme made by the Council so as to cover applications for assistance made up to the 30th September, 1942. During the year Grants of £100 each have been paid or promised in respect of eleven houses.

Conclusion.

Building cost was rising throughout 1938 and will no doubt continue to rise so long as the abnormal demand of the Rearmament and A.R.P. Campaign continues. While costs are high it is open to meet this rise by concentrating on the rehousing of families who could manage with the small type of house, otherwise the average cost per family at which rehousing can be made must continue to rise.

The increase in wages in the building trade as from February last and the increased cost of materials has brought the cost of cottages of the normal three-bedroom type from £350 to £385, the improvement in the general standard of the houses being a contributing factor.

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